



St. Stephen's R C Church.

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

St. Mary's Coupar Angus & St. Luan's Alyth.

30th Sunday, Year B. 26/10/25

Parish Priest and Prison Chaplain: Fr. Gregory E. Umunna Ph.D

Parish website: <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>

E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Scottish Charity No: SC001810

Warm Welcome to all our Parishioners and visitors. Whether you are visiting our parish or just moved into the area, please feel very welcome ... thanks.

Our Vision and Mission: To be a welcoming and participating Catholic community on a journey, striving to be led by the Holy Spirit, strengthened by a bond of love and unity, guided by the gospel message of Christ, refreshed and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ at the Eucharistic table. Enriched by a vibrant people of God from diverse backgrounds and supported by many gifts and talents employed in various ministries and stewardships, we journey together hand-in-hand through life as a parish family of God's people.

Parish diary: Week beginning from 26/10/25



October Devotions. Rosary and Litany: Encouraged in Church before mass, at home/family or pious associations.

Saturday - 5.30pm: Vigil mass. St. Stephen's.

Sunday - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's.

- 11.00am: Holy mass at St. Steph's.

Monday – Prison ministry all day.

Tues – 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's. **Ss. Simon & Jude**

Wed – 10am Holy mass at St. Luan's.

6.00pm Rosary, adoration, St. Stephens.

- 7pm. Holy mass at St. Stephens.

Thurs – Prison ministry all day.

Frid - 10.00am. Holy mass at St. Stephens.

Saturday – 5.30pm: Vigil mass. St. **ALL SAINTS SOLEMNITY**

Sunday: - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth. **ALL SAINTS SOLEMNITY**

Sunday: - 11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's **ALL SAINTS SOLEMNITY**

Monday – Prison ministry all morning and afternoon.

- 6pm. Holy mass of all Souls at St. Stephens.

Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed.

Other Participatory Programmes of the Parish.

-Family Rosary and adoration. Every Wednesday 6.00pm-7.00pm. Mass for the sick every Wednesday 7.00pm-7.30pm.

-Sac. of Reconciliation: 5.00pm every Sat and 9am every Sun.

-Divine Mercy Devotion. Tuesdays after morning mass.

-Please join us. Mass with St. Stephen's Pri. Sch: 1st Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

- Journeying together in Faith Group – Session, Every fortnight.

- Don Bosco Group with activities tailored to children & young people & open to everyone in the community. Every fortnight.

This week as we reflect on All Saints and All Souls: Asleep in Jesus! Blessed sleep:

The last week of October and early November can hold memories, worries and doubts for many as to "what if" As we look to the direction of the celebration and commemoration of All Saints and All Souls respectively this month of November, we pray with the whole church for our beloved dead; our loved ones gone before us marked with the sign of faith, the book of wisdom makes clear to us the reason for the Christian faith and the hope we have for our beloved dead. The commemoration of All Souls most importantly often dulls the joys of all saints.

For the book of Wisdom says, **"their going looked like a disaster ...but they are in peace ...for grace and mercy await those God has chosen."**

St. Paul, aware of the pains of loss and need for consolation while writing to the Romans notes: "nothing can come between us and the love of Christ. ..For we are certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, no height or depth nor any created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8: 31-35. 37-39.

So that in the midst of our sadness at their departure, it is faith in Jesus, which gives us hope and consolation because Jesus has shown us that life means more than this earthly existence; that in fact life will continue beyond death where it reaches its fullest expression in the vision of God's glory in heaven.

It is our hope that through our prayers our beloved dead be free from all pains and sufferings, that they will be united with God where they will enjoy eternal life of peace, joy and thankfulness in the beatific vision of God's glory. **Christ makes clear to us in the gospel that He is the way to this eternal life of peace, joy thankfulness, He is the truth and the life and no one can come to the Father except through Him. Where He has gone we will follow.**

On this commemoration of All Souls let us pray and light a candle (this week) for the souls of the faithful departed who are being purified. Let our faith lead us to understand that, just as God has not stopped loving these poor souls because of their imperfections, neither have we. For this very reason, of course, we pray for our beloved dead, believing that our prayers assist them as they come to meet God face-to-face. We firmly believe that your prayers and the masses we celebrate for them will help them secure the forgiveness of their sins and the eternal rest of

their souls. We also hope that by living his commands, we will one day reach the heavenly homeland to be with God and our loved ones again forever. Jesus, our Lord, who rose from the dead extends to his faithful people, the hope of new and everlasting life and that happiness which will never end. Eternal rest grant unto them o Lord, ...

Opening Prayer: O God, who alone can probe the depths of the heart, you hear the prayer of the humble and justify the repentant sinner. As we stand before you, grant us the gift of humility, that we may see our own sins clearly and refrain from judging our neighbour. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings
Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-14, 16-19 The Lord is not deferential to the powerful but takes the side of the powerless.
2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18 Paul speaks of his imminent death and reflects on his own deep faith. *Luke 18: 9-14* Humility before God is a recurring theme in the readings: the Gospel describes the Pharisee and the tax collector.

Between the humble heart and the arrogant self-righteous hearts: The story of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee.

Genuine humility is simply recognizing the essential truth about ourselves. It is honest self-appraisal, in God's presence, with no pretences, masks or poses. In the presence of the all-holy, all-powerful God each of us knows himself/herself as weak, imperfect and indeed sinful; and with this we recognise our need for mercy. There is no bribe that we can offer to blot out our guilt. There is no pressure we can exert (as we might among ourselves) to gain a credit we do not deserve. Our best recourse is a humble spirit; this attitude will draw down on us divine mercy and grace. The Publican felt this need for complete honesty, as he stood in the Temple of God. "Lord, be merciful," he said; and went home with his sins forgiven and with relief in his heart.

Kindly remember also those on our prayer list:

Michael Rolls, Neil McDowall. Pam McKenna, Mary and George Flockhart. Snooky Marshall, Maud McGinn, Cipriano and Carmelita, Tom O'Malley, Giles Umunna and Tony Donnan, Lisa Robertson, Philip Lafferty, Philip Jackson, Morag McInness.

Today's and Up Coming: 26th October: Building maintenance Fund; 9th November: Sick and Retired Priest's Fund/Catholic Education Service; 30th Nov: Building maintenance Fund; 14th Dec: Poor Mission Fund; 28th Dec: Building maintenance Fund. **Feb. 18th 2026, Ash Wednesday; 5th April 2026 Easter; 31st May 2026: Confirmation; 7th June 2026 First Holy Communion; 25th/26th June Joint Anniversary Celebrations for St. Luan's and St. Stephen's "300 years of Catholicism."**

-Details of Parish account: Name: **St. Stephens RC Blairgowrie.** Account Number: 28075068; Sort Code: 80-22-60.

Last Sunday offertory collection: £453.95. Many thanks for your support to the parish. *Figures exclude takings from

Standing orders, bank transfers and direct debits. Comprehensive Parish Financial Audits and Accounts are published on the Notice Board. Many thanks .

You are never alone: For a shared a prayer, or just have someone listen to you, a candle lit for you or yours, have a mass offered for your intention or that of a loved one living or dead, please speak to the priest.

Tea/Coffee, Everyone is welcome to tea and coffee served in the Lower Hall after 11.00am mass in St. Stephens every Sunday Thanks.

St. Stephen's Parish Library. Selection of Books on: Spirituality/ Prayer. Lives of Saints/ Martyrs, Theology/ philosophy History/ Psychology, Pilgrimage sites. Pls feel free to borrow any from the shelves in the lower hall and return a week after use. Thanks.

Communion to nursing homes, house bounds and the elderly is part of our ministry of care. Please let any of the Eucharistic Ministers or myself know if you know some- one who is in need of this care. Thanks.

Journeying together in Faith Group. Next Session: 31st Oct. 6pm.

Topics discussed so far: **Prayer:** How, when and where to pray, types of prayer; **Purgatory:** meaning, why and how long before they are freed, Should we pray for or to those in purgatory; **Sin;** venial and mortal sins; **Reconciliation;** **Hell,** a state of deprivation not a place, devil, fallen angels, will and choice; **Mercy of God:** works of charity, **Kinds of Baptism:** Baptism by desire, blood and water, **Pope Leo XIV Papal Exhortation *Dilexi te*** just released. etc. Following the recommendations of the parish group "Conversation in the Spirit." we shall continue to test run this initiative in our parish within an atmosphere of a relaxed, friendly and welcoming gathering every fortnight.

Don Bosco Group: The Parish is beginning a programme, Don Bosco Group with activities tailored to children and young people and open to everyone in the community. The aim is to meet every other Friday from 6-7:15pm. St. Stephen's Hall.

Basic idea: This project seeks to engage young people with meaningful activities. We **Learn** skills, **Perform tasks,** **Gain confidence,** **Grow together** and **Pray** together.

This October 24th, we begin with short projects to get the group up and running. In November we can start preparing a quiz/play for a parish Christmas social night.

Contact person: Esther Brown sdjbya@gmail.com.

St. Stephen's Outfit Library for Confirmation and Holy Communion clothing. Do you have an outfit that's too beautiful to be forgotten in a wardrobe? Share the joy and donate the items that your children have outgrown. We will store items of clothing (shoes, dresses, kilts, suits etc.) and they can be worn again.

Anyone can borrow clothing for Holy Communion and Confirmation free of charge or for a donation. If you're interested, speak to Esther or email sdjbya@gmail.com.



Children's Liturgy: I want to thank Mary Wojtowicz and her team of Liturgists for the wonderful work they do for us and I encourage the parents to please support their children to use this wonderful opportunity.

Wishing you a lovely weekend, Fr. Gregory

