

Very Important Meeting:

300 Years of Catholicism Joint Anniversary Celebrations of St. Stephen's and St. Luan's
Meeting of all the Committees to evaluate progress and strategize on Friday 28th of November 2025 5.00pm. Lower Hall

- ⇒ Highlights
- ⇒ Reports by all Committees
- ⇒ Collection of all materials for press(Invitation cards, brochures, souvenirs, and prayer leaflets)
- ⇒ Updates from Achieves and Historicity
- ⇒ Feedback on plan/estimates/ costs for refreshments from the social groups for Alyth and Blairgowrie
- ⇒ Updates on plans/estimates/costs from culture/displays for church flowers/decoration groups
- ⇒ Updates from the Fabric committee
- ⇒ Updates from the Liturgy committee on choice of music/presentations
- ⇒ Updates from website management and designs committee
- ⇒ Updates from media and publicity committee
- ⇒ Updates from budgets. Business, ways and means committee

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

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

Phone: 01250872171. **Email:** ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Address: 8, Bank Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE.

Hall Reservations: Contact no: 01250872171.

Hospital Chaplains: Please call: N/wells Direct line: 07821624124,
Hospital Pager 01382660111; **P.R.I:** 01738259371. *Pls let the priest know if you are on a long stay at the hospital and would like a visit.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: Please make appointment with Priest before any arrangements are made.

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No:SC00810

Parish Ministries, Volunteers and Contact Persons:

H/T: St. Stephen's P. S: Lindsey Smith. Ph: 871950.

Catechist: Mrs. Gail McIntyre.

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Mrs Maureen Jackson 07952376985; Email: ststephen-psc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Parish Webmaster: Mr. Irek Kawalinski. irekkowalinski@gmail.com

Music Directors: Mr. Tom Buckham and Mrs. Gail McIntyre. (Blair) The Donnelly Family (Alyth)

Responsible Person for Eucharistic Ministers: Mrs Maureen Jackson.

Responsible Person for Children's Liturgy: Mrs Mary Wojtowicz

Responsible Person for Lectors: Mr. Anthony Jervis (Alyth) Mrs Maureen Jackson.

Responsible Group for Parish Social Justice Issues: SVP

Responsible Person for Church Flowers: Jean Scott (Blair), Mrs Elma Sharp (Alyth)

Resp. Person: Altar Servers: Mr Rolly Colanse

Grounds Flowers: Mrs Jennifer FitzPatrick (Blair)

Responsible Person for St. Luan's RC Church, Alyth: Daria McDowall: dariam@gmx.com

Adviser on Finance: Mr. Mike Coyle

Adviser on Fabric: Mr. Jim Graham

A team of Welcomers in St. Luan's and St. Stephen's

Wishing you and your loved ones a lovely Sunday -Fr. Gregory

Tear this off please:... Are you going into the hospital? Do you have someone going into the hospital? Would you like him/her/you to be visited with communion, please fill the form below and return to Fr. Gregory.

Name:.....Hospital:..... Date:

Date:.....

Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week.

Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com

Phone: 01250 872171



St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie PH10 6DE, 872171

& St. Luan's Alyth.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year C. 23/11/25

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:** To be a welcoming and participating Catholic community on a journey, striving to be led by the 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 employed in various ministries and stewardships, we journey together hand-in-hand through life as a community.*

Parish diary: Week beginning from 23/11/25

Saturday - 5.30pm: Vigil mass of Christ the King, St. Stephen's.

Sunday - 9.30 am: Holy mass of Christ the King at St. Luan's.

Sunday -11.00am: Holy mass of Christ the King at St. Steph's.

Monday - 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care all day in Prisons.

---5.30pm Overnight Prison Chaplains Meeting/Retreat starts

Tues--- Overnight Prison Chaplains Meeting/Retreat continues all day.

Wednesday - 10.00am - Holy mass at St. Luan's.

---6.00pm Adoration, Rosary at St. Step's.

--- 7.00pm Holy mass for the Sick at St. Step's.

Thurs - 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care all day in Prisons.

Friday -10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephens.

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

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



-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: Ist Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

- Journeying together in Faith Group - Come and learn the faith we celebrate! Session, Every fortnight. Next Session, 28/11/25, 6pm

- Don Bosco Group with activities tailored to children & young people & open to everyone in the community. Every fortnight. 5/12/25, 6pm

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad

"The central mystery of Christian faith and life is the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity. Christians are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (CCC, No. 44).

This Week's Message in a Glance... God the Father anointed Christ the Lord, his only Son, with the oil of gladness as eternal priest and king of all creation. As priest, he offered himself on the altar of the cross and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king, he claims dominion over all creatures, that he may present to His infinite majesty a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love, and peace.

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, James Jeffrey.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, to Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, you have granted everlasting dominion and a kingship that shall not pass away. Remove from us every desire for privilege and power, that we may imitate the sacrificial love of Christ our King and, as a royal and priestly people, serve you humbly in our brothers and sisters. Grant this 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

2 Samuel 5:1-3 The choosing of David as King of Israel in ancient times

Colossians 1:12-20 Jesus is given all the titles a king would have.

Luke 23:35-43 On the cross, Jesus promises heaven to the good thief.

The kingdom where Jesus reigns as King...



*The kingdom of truth and life,
the kingdom of holiness and
grace, the kingdom of justice,
peace and love.*

Bishops' Message Day for Life presents an opportunity to celebrate the dignity of all human life from conception to natural end. The theme for 2025 is 'Hope Does Not Disappoint: Finding Meaning in Suffering'.

For as long as history has been written, the world has never been without struggle and suffering. Through the lens of television and social media, however, the suffering of the whole world appears on our personal devices. Many of us find it hard to make sense of a world in which suffering seems to press down from every direction: pandemic; war; homelessness; violence in our streets, addiction. Then, often without warning, we find ourselves caught up in the struggle when serious illness comes into our own lives. Suffering touches every person at some point in their lives. It is often associated with illness, grief, and loss. It is not only caused by physical pain but includes emotional suffering as well as 'soul pain', such as depression and despair.

Christians are not immune to this mystery and we often struggle to know how best to respond to it, and where we can find hope. "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:5-6). St Paul invites us to see that Christian hope is not just naive optimism but, rather, an unshakeable trust in the power and presence of God who is with us always. This hope can endure the darkness of human suffering and even see beyond it. That is because Christian hope is anchored in God who is Love and whose love reaches out to us and lifts us up day after day. Care for the sick and suffering was central to the ministry of Jesus. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan as a way of explaining what it means to be a "neighbour" to another person. The Good Samaritan is someone who sees and is moved to compassion (while others turn away), who draws close, who "binds up wounds", who accompanies the person in need, and who continues to care for as long as it is needed.

Often the healing Jesus offered was much more than just a physical cure: it included emotional and spiritual healing as well, because for Jesus, the human person is more than just a body needing to be fixed. Jesus invites us to "Go and do likewise" (Lk. 10:29-37). The alleviation of suffering is good and must always be part of our focus. But there remains, for many people, a suffering that cannot be taken away and has to be endured. How do we make sense of that? The claim that it is better to die than to suffer leads some people to suggest that euthanasia or assisted suicide might be more compassionate. As Christians, however, we follow Jesus who lived his entire life, including his suffering, in the confident hope that His Father loved him and would raise him up, and He did! The cross, which Jesus did not ask for and did nothing to deserve, has become a sign of hope for countless millions of people in every generation.

The death and resurrection of Jesus leads us to believe that, far from being futile or absurd, a life marked by suffering, when it is lived with generosity and patience, is full of meaning. People like Simon of Cyrene (who helped carry the cross), or St. Veronica (who wiped the face of Jesus) literally accompanied Jesus on the Way of the Cross. Modern saints like Thérèse of Lisieux and the soon-to-be first millennial saint Carlo Acutis understood that when we unite our 3 suffering with the suffering of Christ for the good of the world, it is transformed through his grace. Most of us have known people like them. Far from being the end of hope, their suffering, when accepted and embraced, has shown itself to be a path to growth and ultimately to Resurrection.

This year's Day for Life is an invitation to pray for those who suffer and to remain with them like the Good Samaritan, bearing witness to their unique and unrepeatable value. We see this closeness in the generous and fruitful service of healthcare professionals, whose mission continues even when there is no longer any prospect of physical healing. We see it in another way in families, carers and chaplains who support their brothers and sisters who are sick or frail or struggling with the many burdens of life. As Christians, we affirm them and hold out to them the hope of Jesus Christ who does not disappoint us. **Bishops of Paisley Scotland**

→ Today's and Up Coming Events:

- ⇒ 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. Steph's "300 years of Catholicism."
- ⇒ Civic and Academic Mass at St. Andrew's Cathedral – Sunday, November 23rd, 11am
- ⇒ St Andrew's Day Dignity Not Detention Solidarity Gathering – Dungavel IRC, Strathaven, ML10 6RF – Sunday 30th, November, 1pm
- ⇒ Join Justice & Peace Scotland to call for "Dignity Not Detention" and advocate for an end to the inhumane practice of unlimited immigration detention. The UK is the only country in Europe that does not have a statutory time limit on detention, meaning people can be held in prison-like conditions indefinitely with no idea when they will be released. We do so mindful of Pope Leo XIV's recent reaffirmation that we will be judged by how we treat the stranger.
- ⇒ 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. Next session, 5th December. Basic idea: This project seeks to engage young people with meaningful activities. We Learn skills, Perform tasks, Gain confidence, Grow together and Pray together. In November we can start preparing a quiz/play for a parish Christmas social night. Contact person: Esther Brown 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
- ⇒ SSVF Christmas nibbles for senior citizens: Sandwiches, sausage rolls, traybakes, tea and coffees will be served. Date: Sunday, 7th December, Parish Hall, 1.00pm. Interested persons should please add their names to the list at the back of the Church.
- ⇒ Journeying together in Faith Group. Next Session: 28th Nov. 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, Halloween and the eve of All Hallows in All Saints. 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.
- ⇒ Altar Servers/Children/Young parishioners Christmas Party: 19th December 2025, 6.00pm, Parish Hall. Lots of gifts, music, dance, games, snacks and fun.
- ⇒ Social/Family Night 2nd December, 6.00pm, BYOB. Some poetry, songs, drama and more ('And more' refers to others wishing to contribute as usually happens on these evenings). All welcome.

Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week.

Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com Phone: 01250 872171



"I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." Phil 3:8-14



Mission Appeal

Fr. Patrick McCallion SPS Will be visiting our parish and preaching mission on behalf of the Kiltigan Fathers on Sunday the 29th of June. That weekend will have only two masses: 9.30am in Alyth and 11.00am in Blairgowrie. Please welcome & support their missionary work.

St. Stephen's Parish Library.

Selection of Books on: Spirituality/Prayer

Lives of Saints/Martyr

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.

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 morning after 11.00am mass. Thanks.

-Details of Parish account: Name: **St. Stephens RC Blairgowrie.** Account Number: 28075068; Sort Code: 80-22-60. **Last Sunday offertory collection: £500.10.** 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 .



Project Matthew 25: Make the joy of the Christmas season go round. Support the PRISON APOSTOLATE with Food and vouchers, canned food, biscuits, chocolates, pastries etc. Collection bag at the back of the church.

Adoration in St. Stephen's, every Wed. 6.00pm-7.00pm. "The Eucharist is that love which surpasses all loves in Heaven and on earth." - St. Bernard. Please feel free to join us for adoration.



Christmas Hampers 2025: Christmas is fast approaching and we thought that now would be the right time to ask for donations for the Christmas Hampers to be riffled in December – one for each church. There's a bag at the back of the church for you to donate any items you'd like to see included in the hampers. Raffle tickets will go on sale shortly. Thank you very much.

Relection:

Kingdom of Justice, Love and Peace

Paul says that at the end of time Jesus Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. Our Preface repeats this, describing the kingdom as one of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace. This vision is something to be promoted by us in the present. The kingdom is our hope, but it is also in our midst, in process of becoming. Jesus tells us how to promote the coming of God's kingdom among us. It comes closer whenever justice is done for the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, and the oppressed. To act in this way is to imitate the Shepherd-King himself who rescues us from situations of alienation, who feeds, gives rest, heals and makes strong. At the end he was promising the thief being crucified at his side, that he would be brought to paradise. The best way to honour Christ our King is to work to develop his project of mercy among us. Whatever we do to help the deprived and underprivileged is also a service to Christ, who identifies himself personally with people in need. Following Christ the King is not the passive option of "keeping myself to myself" or "I do harm to anyone." To ignore the needs of our neighbour is to close our ears to Christ. To turn aside from the anguish of the dying is to shut our eyes to him. If we follow Jesus Christ as our Shepherd-king we must in some way be shepherds ourselves, for his sake. ACP

When faced by Pontius Pilate, Jesus says clearly what kind of king he is. He tells the Roman Governor, "My kingdom is not of this world." : "for this I was born and came into the world, to bear witness to the truth. All who are on the side of truth listen to my voice" (John 18:37.)

Parish Website: www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No: