



St. Stephen's R C Church.

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

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

ALL SAINTS, SOLEMNITY. Year B. 2/11/25

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

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

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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 2/11/25

Saturday - 5.30pm: Vigil mass. St. Stephen's. **ALL SAINTS, SOLEMNITY**

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

-11.00am: Holy mass at St. Steph's. **ALL SAINTS, SOLEMNITY**

Monday – Prison ministry all day.

- **6pm. Holy mass of all Souls at St. Stephens.**
Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed.

Tues – 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's. St. Charles Borromeo

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. Stephen's

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

Sunday: -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

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:



Isaiah 25: 6-9: *On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."*

Today's feast is not about the *canonised* saints but about all the good and holy people who have ever lived. None of us, I feel sure, is expecting to be a canonised saint. We don't fantasise that one day some pope will declare what saints we were. We don't expect that our picture is going to be revered on the walls of churches. Not for a moment do we imagine anyone saying prayers to us or preserving pieces of us as relics. But in its document on the Church, the Second Vatican Council wrote a chapter called *The Universal Call to Holiness*. So our Feast today is reminding us of our deep-down calling to become better people than we currently are! It is reminding us that Jesus Christ can and will empower us to practise what he preached and to live what we believe! Surely, then, we won't ever want to stop receiving him as our *Bread of Life* in Holy Communion!

Opening Prayer: O God, glory of believers and life of the just, by the death and resurrection of your Son, we are redeemed: have mercy on your departed servants and make them worthy to share the joys of paradise, for they believed in the resurrection of the dead. We ask 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

1st Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; Responsorial: Psalm 24

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3; Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes as guide to the Kingdom of Heaven

Beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

ALL SAINTS: We call them cat's eyes. You know, those luminous markings along the middle of a road that light up when your car's headlights shine on them. They are such a reassuring sight when you are driving along an unlit road late at night. They guide you around the curves, keep you from going off the edge and separate the lanes of traffic safely. The saints do the same thing for us. As we move forward day by day through our life, they are there to guide us safely. They do this by the quality and courage with which they have lived their own grace-filled lives. In times of war, anger and hatred, there are saints like Francis of Assisi who remind us of Christ's call to reconciliation. In times of terror and persecution there are saints like Maximilian Kolbe who teach us through the example of their own quiet courage. In times of confusion, when the culture around us seems set against Christianity, we turn to the doctors of the Church, ranging from the divine simplicity of Thérèse of Lisieux to the thought-provoking insights of Augustine of Hippo. Or perhaps we turn to holy people like Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta who round richness in poverty, and fulfilment in humble acts of service. In times of laxity or institutional tiredness, we see inspiration from the discipline of Ignatius of Loyola, or the evangelizing zeal of St Paul himself.

Then there are the hidden saints. Not quite hidden – you and I have noticed them, but they are probably unaware that they have inspired us.

What has given these saints their strength? Quite simply, it is their faith. More than that, it is their faith in God shining through the face of Jesus Christ. They are men and women who have been caught up in the love of God, that is to say, God's love of us and the love of God that this in turn awakens in our hearts. Saints are not inspired by a cause, or motivated by ideals, although they may well have causes and as Christians they certainly have ideals. No, saints are people who have been able to know God's love, and by entering more deeply into it, they have been given grace. It is tempting when we think of saints to think of them as people who are very different from ourselves. Actually, the real challenge of the saints is that at one point in their lives they were very much like ourselves. But the message is also that no matter how feeble or conflicted we may feel, Christ can still reign in our hearts and make us messengers of his kingdom.

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: 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: 14th 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.

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, 7th November.**

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 sdjbva@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*