



St. Stephen's R C Church.

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

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

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. Year B. 9/11/25

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 9/11/25

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. **St. Leo the Great**

5.00pm: **Overnight Meeting of the Council of Priests in Kinnoull**

Tues — **Meeting of the Council of Priests continues all day**

Wed — 8.00am-500pm: **Prison Chaplaincy Training Edinburgh**

6.00pm Rosary, adoration, St. Stephens.

- 7pm. Holy mass at St. Stephens. **St. Josephat**

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 On Remembrance Day



Heavenly Father, we remember with gratitude the brave men and women who have given their lives in service to our nation.

We pray that their sacrifice inspires us to live with courage, compassion, and a deep commitment to building a lasting peace. May we, like Christ, honour their memory by striving for justice and love in the world. Amen

Opening Prayer: God all-holy, in every place on earth you gather your people into your presence to proclaim the wonders of your love. As we celebrate the dedication of the cathedral church of Rome, deepen our unity with your faithful throughout the world and build us up into a house of prayer for all nations. 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

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12The baptistry of the Lateran Basilica is dedicated to St John the Baptist: this reading conveys the cleansing and healing power of the waters of baptism. **1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17**The Christian community is the church of God: this makes its gathering place sacred. **John 2:13-22**The most important temple for us is the body of the Lord, who was raised to life as our glory and our hope.

Beatitudes: "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.

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica: Today we celebrate the dedication of the basilica of St John Lateran in Rome. Why celebrate the dedication of a church in faraway Rome, you may ask. It is to remind us of the importance of the church building as sacred space set apart for personal and collective encounter with God. Historically, the basilica of St John Lateran is the oldest Church of Rome and the highest ranking church in the world. As such it is the mother of all churches. When we celebrate its dedication to God, therefore, we celebrate the mystery of God's special presence and indwelling in buildings set apart for divine worship, including our own parish church. We know that God is everywhere. Yet when the people of God erect a building and dedicate it totally to God's service, God's glory comes to dwell in that building in such a way that the building can now be called the house of God. So, while we celebrate God's special indwelling in a temple, we must remind ourselves that God's presence is not confined in the temple. God is still everywhere, but shows His glory in a special way in some persons, places, and things. A temple or church is one such place. In earlier days, a temple, church or shrine was revered so much as to suggest that God dwelt exclusively in such places. People went to church,

participated in service, received communion and went home without knowing who was sitting beside them in church. Our prayer was very private and the man or woman sitting next to you was rather seen as a distraction in one's intimate communion with God. Worshippers forgot that we are brothers and sisters, and that we come to church to worship God as family. To help us realise this, the Vatican Council II introduced some changes in worship such as the priest facing the people at Mass and worshippers exchanging the sign of peace. However we must not lose the sense of the church as a sacred place, we need to hold on to those practices which remind us that God is present. How do we prepare ourselves for Mass? Do we sign ourselves with the Holy Water? Do we genuflect or bow to the altar or the tabernacle before taking our seat or before leaving the church? We gather as a Community to help each other to pray and hold our world before the Lord. Let us create a sense of stillness and reverence as we prepare to share in our public worship of God, by joining fully in the prayers and responses, the hymns and the times of quiet. Today we are asked to realise more fully the beauty of who we are and our calling to worship God together, as individuals and as families!-- a Reflection from: Diocese of Westminster

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has established a new Office of Communications and Evangelisation to support our common efforts in proclaiming the Gospel and witnessing to the life of the Church in our nation. The Office will work to:

- Manage and distribute statements for the Bishops' Conference
- Share the Good News of the Gospel confidently and clearly - highlight the positive impact of Catholic life across Scotland.
- Strengthen communication and collaboration across dioceses, parishes, schools, religious communities and lay apostolates
- Engage constructively with secular media and public discourse
- Support and develop digital evangelisation initiatives at a national level.

As part of this mission, **Being Catholic TV** will now serve as the **official digital platform** of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. It will provide video content, livestreamed events, features from around the country, and faith formation resources to assist our parish communities in their work of evangelisation and outreach. To access these resources, visit beingcatholic.org or sign-up to the BCTV social channels. The Bishops have appointed **Fr Michael Kane** as Director of this new Office. He will be supported by a small team of staff who will coordinate national communications, distribute official statements, and assist with the wider evangelising mission of the Church.

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.

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. Stephs every Sun. Thanks.

SSVP Christmas nibbles for senior citizens: Sandwiches, sausage rolls, traybakes, tea and coffees will be served. Date: Sunday, 7th December, Parish Hall, 1.00pm.

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, 21st 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*

