

St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

St. Luan's RC Alyth.

6th Sunday of the Year A 15/2/2026

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

E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk; Scottish Charity No: SC001810.

Parish Priest/Prison Chaplain: Fr. Gregory E. Umunna S.T.D; Ph.D. **Phone:** 01250872171

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 15/2/26

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

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

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

Mond - Masses and Ministry of Care all day in Prisons.

Tues— Masses and Ministry of Care all day in Prisons.

Wed— **ASH WEDNESDAY:** Fasting and Abstinence. The Start of the Lenten Season. Lent prepares us for Easter.

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

-2.00pm: Mass at St. Stephen's Primary School.

6.00pm: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sac. - -

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

Thurs—

Friday -10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephens. Day of prayer for those who have suffered Abuse; Meeting.

First Sunday of Lent

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— Come and learn the faith we celebrate! Session, Every fortnight. Next Session is on the 20th of Feb.2026, 6pm. **Don Bosco Group:** with activities tailored to children and young people and open to everyone in the community. 6-7:15pm. Hall. Next session, 27th Feb 2026.

This Week's Message in a Glance... Today's readings ask for decisions, challenging Christians to choose the right path. Using freedom well. It is not our misdeeds which accuse us before God, but our hearts, fractured and divided as they are. Jesus insists that we go deeper than our external deeds. The vital question is what is going on in our hearts, our thoughts and motivations? The teaching is presented using various examples, presented

sometimes with great simplicity, and with irony and wit.

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.

Opening Prayer: All-seeing God, you alone judge rightly our inmost thoughts. Teach us to observe your law from the heart even as we keep it outwardly. Purify our desires, calm every anger, and reconcile us to one another. Then will our worship at your altar render you perfect praise. 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.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings: Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37. The Beatitudes were part of the Gospel two weeks ago; today's Gospel elaborates on their meaning. The first reading invites us to make the choice that will bring us life, while the second reading tells us we have great wisdom available to us.

Today/Coming Programmes and Events of the Parish:

*15th Feb: Ecclesiastical Students Fund; 1st March: Building maintenance Fund.

*20th February, Mass will be said at 1pm at St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee to mark Day of prayer for those who have suffered Abuse in the calendar of the Catholic Church in Scotland. *15th March: SCIAF Sunday;

*29th March: Building maintenance Fund; *12th April, Holy Places; *26th April, Building maintenance Fund; *10th May, The Apostolate of Communication; *7th June, The Day of Life; 28th June, Building maintenance Fund; 12th July, Peter's Pence; 26th July, Building maintenance Fund; 9th August, The Apostleship of the Sea; 30th August, Building maintenance Fund; 13th September, Bishop's Mensal Fund; 27th September, Building maintenance Fund, 18th October, The Sick and Retired Priest's Fund & Mission Sunday; 25th October, Building maintenance Fund; 29th November, Building maintenance Fund; 13th December, Catholic

Education Service; 27th December Building maintenance Fund, Poor Mission Fund;

*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."

*19th April: Mill Hill Missionaries will be preaching mission here in St. Stephen's parish in the weekend of 19th of April 2026. Please welcome them.

*A Pilgrimage to Italy in September 2026 visiting Padua, Venice, Verona and Milan. Attached, is a copy of the itinerary and an information evening will be held in St Clements Hospitality area on Thursday 19th February at 7pm. Please contact Bernedette Daily @ 07919106129 for more information.

*Parish Family Joint Anniversary Celebrations Musical and Culture Evening Friday, 8th of May 2026. Family friendly; BYOB and friends. Tea/Coffee snacks and music will be served.

The Eucharist: As food, do I feel nourished after holy communion? Do I feel a sense of being blessed and graced at the end of each Mass? As Sacrifice, what have I offered as part of the sacrifice? As communion, Has the Mass strengthened my identity as a member of this worshipping community? As thanksgiving, do I give thanks always.

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. Thanks

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.

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.

This year's WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal focuses on Ethiopia As we approach the holy season of Lent, we are deeply grateful for the faithful partnership of parishes across Scotland.

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 to Warm Spaces programme sponsored by Perth and Kinross.



-Details of Parish account: Name: **St. Stephens RC Blairgowrie.** Account Number: 28075068; Sort Code: 80-22-60. **Last Sunday offertory collection: £647.80.** 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 .

Reflection by Loyola Press. Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbour. When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires. The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

-Wishing you a lovely Sunday, Fr. Gregory