

St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

St. Luan's RC Alyth.

1st Sunday of Lent A 22/2/2026

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 22/2/26

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 - Station of the Cross and 10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's.

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

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

Thurs –

Friday -10.00am: Station of the Cross and 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 – Come and learn the faith we celebrate! Session, Every fortnight. Next Session is on the 6th of March 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... During Lent we may reflect on our Baptism as a sharing in the life of Jesus. Our growing in the image of God has an aspect of dying to self and another aspect of rising to God's new life of love. The seed of this movement or growth was planted in us when we were first reconciled to God in the grace and sacrament of our rebirth.

The three temptations of Jesus remind us not to forget

spiritual values; not to be obsessed about seeking fame and celebrity and about power for power sake.

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 Jackson, Morag McInness.

Reflection of the week.

The Cost of Discipleship: "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/catholicbard/2025/04/cheap-grace-and-other-thoughts-of-dietrich-bonhoeffer/>

Opening Prayer: Lord our God, in every age you call a people to hear your word and to do your will. Renew us in these Lenten days: washed clean of sin, sealed with the Spirit, and sustained by your living bread, may we remain true to our calling and, with the elect, serve you alone. Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 — Describes the entry of sin into the world through the story of Adam and Eve. *Romans 5:12-19* — Paul brings the First Reading and Gospel together, and tells us that the death of Jesus freed all from sin.

Matthew 4:1-11 — The Gospel shows us that even Jesus had to endure temptation.

Invitation from the Don Bosco Group: Open to all school aged young people. We meet every second Friday from 6-7:25pm in St. Stephen's Upper Hall. 27/2/2026: 1st aid training 13/3/2026: Epic games session 27/3/2026: Escape Room Join us now for some light-hearted learning and some serious fun!

The St. Stephen's outfit library for Confirmation and Holy Communion clothing is now up and running. Dresses, smart suits and other outfits are ready to be borrowed free of charge or for a donation. We also still gratefully accept donations of items of clothing your children have outgrown so they can be worn again. And of course, a big thank you to everyone who has generously donated outfits. If you're interested, speak to Esther or email sdjbya@gmail.com.

Today/Coming Programmes and Events of the Parish:

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.

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. Steph's Parish Library. Selection of Books on: Spirituality/Prayer, Lives of Saints/Martyr, Theology, 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 . *-Wishing you a lovely Sunday. Fr. Gregory*