

## St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

St. Luan's RC Alyth.

Palm Sunday Yr A 29/3/2026

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

E-mail: [ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto: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 29/3/26 HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

**Sunday 29th of March: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord** Year C - Distribution, Procession, Blessing of Palm at all Masses

- + Vigil Mass at 5.30 p.m. in St. Stephen's
- + Mass at 9.30 a.m. in St. Luan's
- + Mass at 11.00 a.m. in St. Stephen's
- + Evening Prayer and Benediction at **4.00 pm** in St. Stephen's.

**Monday of Holy Week** – 30th March: Chaplaincy/Masses at 10.15am/1.30pm in Glenochil Prisons

**Tues Holy Week** – 31st March: Mass at 10am in St. Step's

**Wed. of Holy Week** – 1st of April: Stations of the Cross and Mass at 10.00am in St. Luan's

-April 1st – Chrim Mass at the Cathedral 7PM

**Holy Thursday of the Lord's Betrayal** – April 2nd

-Morning Prayer in St Stephen's 10am.

-The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm in St. Steph's. No washing of feet.

**Good Friday of the Lord's Passion** – April 3rd (Day of Fasting and Abstinence)

- Morning Prayer in St Stephen's 10am.

• Stations of The Cross at 12.00noon in St. Luan's followed by The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion.

• Stations of The Cross at 3.00pm in St. Stephen's followed by The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion.

**Holy Sat** – April 4th A day of waiting at the Lord's tomb.

• Morning Prayer in St Stephen's 10am.

• 11.00am: Blessing of Easter Food Basket for the Polish Community

**THE EASTER VIGIL MASS:** Night of all nights.

This is the crown and highpoint of the Christian liturgical year, from 7.00pm at St. Stephen's.

**Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord** – April 5th Renewal of Baptismal Promises and blessing with Holy Water

+ 9.30 am. in St Luan's

+ 11.00 am. in St. Stephen's Blairgowrie

Suggested Scriptural Readings for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1; Exodus 14:15; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10. Holistic participation, exterior and interior silence is key to a worthy celebration of the Holy Week.

### -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.

-**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** 5.00pm Sats 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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, Stephen's Upper Hall: Epic games session 10/4/2026: Escape Room. Join us now for some light-hearted learning and some serious fun!

- Joint anniversary celebrations of the 300 Years of Catholicism. Invitation Cards are & other highlights to reach us soon.

This Week's Message in a Glance... Today's readings tell us that Jesus suffered—and he really did suffer.

There is the final poignant cry from the cross: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* He stands in silent dignity before his judges, refusing to be intimidated. In the

midst of his own pain and indignities, he can continue to think of the needs of others and can, after his own teaching, pray for and forgive his enemies.

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.** ... Our great week: We begin the most solemn week of the liturgical year. Once called the 'Great Week', nowadays we know it as 'Holy Week'. In it we witness the total self-giving of Jesus. St Paul describes it as his "kenosis" (Greek: κένωσις is the act of emptying) or 'self-emptying' by which Jesus made himself entirely receptive to the divine will. "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave." Paul goes on to affirm to total vindication of Jesus: "God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name." Our liturgy this week invites us to follow Jesus every step of the way, beginning with his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. On Thursday we will join him at table, to receive his gift of himself in the eucharistic bread and wine. After dining with him we will, in our reflections, go with him along the trail from the Upper Room to the Garden of Olives. There we will see him struggling with fear and anxiety about the cruel death that awaits him. On Good Friday we will be standing in spirit beside his mother at the foot of the cross, while he hands his spirit back to the Father who sent him. On Saturday we will be quiet and silent around his tomb, as we remember the injustice and cruelty of humanity, for which he died. Then, late on Saturday, we will move from the darkness of our Passion journey to the place of the bright Easter fire. There we will join the procession of the great Paschal Candle, representing the risen Christ, as he lights up the darkness of our church and lives. The pain of our compassion with Jesus to Calvary will give way to the hope and joy of Easter. Jesus Christ is not dead and gone. No, he is risen, strong and powerful, alive in himself, and alive in us.

**Opening Prayer:** Almighty and eternal God, when you sent our Saviour into the world, you gave us all an example to follow: in humble obedience he took upon himself a body like ours and gave himself up to death on the cross. In your mercy, grant us the grace to learn from the example of his passion and to share in the glory of his resurrection. 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.

**Introduction to the Scripture Readings:** *Isaiah 50:4-7* — This reading describes someone putting up with a lot of suffering. Our tradition teaches us that these lines apply to Jesus. *Philippians 2:6-11* — In this ancient hymn to Christ, we are taught that Jesus achieved glory through suffering. *Matthew 26:14 to 27:66* — This year, Matthew's version of the Passion is read. It's clear that he believed the Jews were to blame for the death of the Messiah; the Church today doesn't.

**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](mailto:sdjbya@gmail.com).

**Today/Coming Programmes and Events of the Parish:**

\*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 & Poor Mission Fund; 27th December Building maintenance 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: Fr. Bernard Fox of the Mill Hill Missionaries will be preaching mission here in St. Stephen's parish in the weekend of 19th of April 2026. There will be no Vigil Mass this weekend. 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 Bernadette Daily @ 07919106129 for more information.

**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.

**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: £492.92; SCIAF £384.80.** 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*

