

St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

St. Luan's RC Alyth.

3rd Sunday of Lent A 8/3/2026

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 8/3/26

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 — 8.30am: meeting in Perth

10.30am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

11.45am: Meeting with Bereaved family for funeral arrangement.

Wed - 10am Stations of the Cross and 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 — 9.45am Funeral mass at St. Steph's for Catherine Douglas followed by interment in Dundee Cemetery.

Friday -10.00am: **mass** at St. Stephen's.

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.

Mass intentions: Mary Kate O'Brien (anniversary)
Patrick O'Brien (anniversary)

-**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 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, Stephen's Upper Hall.13/3/2026: Epic games session 27/3/2026: Escape Room Join us now for some light-hearted learning and some serious fun!

-A very important general meeting of all the Committees of the Joint Anniversary Celebrations to assess and strategize preparations for the event will be held on Friday 20th of March 6pm.

This Week's Message in a Glance... Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the

Messiah. 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 dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is Scripturally important. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshipping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah. – Loyola Press

Opening Prayer: O God, living and true, look upon your people, whose dry and stony hearts are parched with thirst. Unseal the living water of your Spirit; let it become within us an ever-flowing spring, leaping up to eternal life. Thus may we worship you in spirit and in truth through Christ, our deliverance and hope, 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: *Exodus 17:3-7* — A thirsty people complain to Moses, and God gives them water from the rock. *Romans 5:1-2, 5-8* — A reflection on God's love, which was proved, Paul says, by Jesus' death on the cross. *John 4:5-42* — The Gospel story of the woman at the well contains the promise of living water to those who believe, foreshadowed in the reading from Exodus.

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.

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Today/Coming Programmes and Events of the Parish:

*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 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.

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.



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-Details of Parish account: Name: **St. Stephens RC Blairgowrie.** Account Number: 28075068; Sort Code: 80-22-60. **Last Sunday offertory collection: £552.32.** 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*

