

Prayer of Pope Leo for Priests: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd and companion on the journey, today we place in your hands all priests, especially those going through moments of crisis, when loneliness weighs heavily, when doubt clouds their hearts, and when exhaustion seems stronger than hope. You who know their struggles and wounds, renew in them the certainty of your unconditional love. Let them feel they are not mere functionaries or lonely heroes, but beloved sons, humble and cherished disciples, and pastors sustained by the prayer of their people.

Good Father, teach us as a community to care for our priests: to listen without judging, to give thanks without demanding perfection, to share with them the baptismal mission of proclaiming the Kingdom in word and deed, and to accompany them with closeness and sincere prayer. May we support those who so often support us

Holy Spirit rekindle in our priests the joy of the Gospel. Grant them healthy friendships, networks of fraternal support, a sense of humour when things don't go as expected, and the grace to always rediscover the beauty of their vocation. May they never lose trust in You, nor the joy of serving your Church with a humble and generous heart. Amen.

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest/Prison Chaplain: Fr. Gregory E. Umunna Ph.D.

Phone: 01250872171. **Email:** ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Address: 8, Bank Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE.

Hall Reservations: Contact no: 01250872171.

Hospital Chaplains: Please call: N/wells Direct line: 07821624124, Hospital Pager 01382660111; **P.R.I:** 01738259371. *Pls let the priest know if you are on a long stay at the hospital and would like a visit.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: Please make appointment with Priest before any arrangements are made.

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No:SC00810

Parish Ministries, Volunteers and Contact Persons:

H/T: St. Stephen's P. S: Lindsey Smith. Ph: 871950.

Catechist: Mrs. Gail McIntyre.

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Mrs Maureen Jackson 07952376985; Email: ststephen-psc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Parish Webmaster: Mr. Irek Kawalinski. irekkowalinski@gmail.com

Music Directors: Mr. Tom Buckham and Mrs. Gail McIntyre. (Blair) The Donnelly Family (Alyth)

Responsible Person for Eucharistic Ministers: Mrs Maureen Jackson.

Responsible Person for Children's Liturgy: Mrs Mary Wojtowicz

Responsible Person for Lectors: Mr. Anthony Jervis (Alyth) Mrs Maureen Jackson.

Responsible Group for Parish Social Justice Issues: SVP

Responsible Person for Church Flowers: Jean Scott (Blair), Mrs Elma Sharp (Alyth)

Resp. Person: Altar Servers: Mr Rolly Colanse

Grounds Flowers: Mrs Jennifer FitzPatrick (Blair)

Responsible Person for St. Luan's RC Church, Alyth: Daria McDowall: dariam@gmx.com

Adviser on Finance: Mr. Mike Coyle

Adviser on Fabric: Mr. Jim Graham

A team of vibrant Welcomers in St. Luan's and St. Stephen's

Wishing you and your loved ones a lovely Easter celebration -Fr. Gregory

Tear this off please:... Are you going into the hospital? Do you have someone going into the hospital? Would you like him/her/you to be visited with communion, please fill the form below and return to Fr. Gregory.

Name:.....Hospital:..... Date:

Date:.....

Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week.

Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com Phone: 01250 872171



St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie PH10 6DE, Ph. 01250872171

St. Luan's RC Alyth.

2nd Sunday of Easter Yr A 12/4/2026

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.



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 12/4/26

2nd Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday

+5.30pm: Vigil Mass in St. Stephens

+9.30 am. Holy Mass in St Luan's

+11.00 am. Holy Mass in St. Stephen's Blairgowrie

Monday: Chaplaincy/Masses at 10.15am/1.30pm in Glenochil Prisons

Tues: 10am Holy Mass in St. Stephen's

Wed.: Mass at 10.00am in St. Luan's

+6pm: Rosary, Exposition and Adoration

+7Pm: Holy Mass in St. Stephen's

Thurs –

Friday: Holy Mass in St Stephen's 10am.

NO VIGIL MASS: Please welcome Fr. Bernard Fox of the Mill Hill Missionaries who will be celebrating the two masses: 9.30am and 11.00am for us and asking us to support their missionary work across the world. Thank you.

3rd Sunday of Easter: Mill Hill Missionaries Preacher

+ 9.30 am. Holy Mass in St Luan's

+11.00 am. Holy Mass in St. Stephen's Blairgowrie

This Week's Message in a Glance...

Jesus continues to appear to his disciples to strengthen them and to fulfil the scriptures' testimony about his resurrection. This weekend, while appearing to them, he offers his gift of peace and Holy Spirit to them "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Opening Prayer: God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism you have raised us up in Jesus and given us life that endures. Day by day refine our faith, that we who have not seen the Christ may truly confess him as our Lord and God and share the blessedness of those who believe. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings


Acts 2:42-47 – For the whole season of Easter, the first reading comes from the Acts of the Apostles; today's segment describes how the early Christians lived. **Peter 1:3-9** – In the second reading, Peter sets out the reasons for our hope. **John 20:19-31** – Contains the story of Thomas coming to terms with Jesus' resurrection.

"The central mystery of Christian faith and life is the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity. Christians are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (CCC, No. 44).

Parish Website: www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No:

Foods 4 Thought: These challenging and most difficult Times Require us to LEND A HELPING HAND. Please let us know if you would like somebody to talk to at this difficult time.

 "Service is our work too; it makes our talents bear fruit and it gives meaning to our lives. Those who do not live to serve, serve for little in this life. We must repeat this, and repeat it often: those who do not live to serve, serve for little in this life. We should reflect on this: those who do not live to serve, serve for little in this life."
—Pope Francis

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

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 sdjbva@gmail.com.

Today/Coming Programmes and Events of the Parish:

*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



Reflection of the week ... Helped by a doubting apostle

The expression "Doubting Thomas" comes from this remarkable Easter story. The apostle Thomas, one of Jesus' inner circle, was slow to believe in the resurrection. He demanded concrete evidence before he could believe that the risen Jesus had appeared to his fellow apostles. His story offers some comfort to those of us who are always nagged by doubts. With the memory of our Lord's crucifixion fresh in their hearts, the nervous disciples had locked the doors of their meeting room. They had locked themselves for fear of Jewish reprisals. They were afraid that what was done to Jesus could be done to them. The turning point came when Jesus appeared among them and breathed the Holy Spirit into them, filling them with new purpose. "As the father sent me, so am I sending you." In the power of the Spirit they left their self-imposed prison, to go out and spread the message of Jesus. In today's reading from Acts St Luke shows them witnessing to the resurrection both in word and by the quality of their living.

Some people who cannot believe profess to envy those who do. They would like to experience the certainty of believers and share the faith of their parents. And indeed, most ordinary mortals have moments of doubt during our spiritual journey. Thomas's recovery from his doubts offers a valuable insight into God's mercy and kindness.

Are we sometimes like those disciples, indecisive, inactive, unwilling to promote the faith. The "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" have dented our confidence. Are we tempted to abandon our faith journey, unable to see a way forward? Our past failures make us hesitant to try again. Today's gospel offers a solution. The Lord himself has power to revive our courage and our faith. No locked doors, nor even locked hearts, can keep him out.

At first, Thomas refused to believe that the others had seen him. He demanded definite and demonstrable, tangible proof. Jesus gave him the proof he needed. "Put your finger here," he said, "and feel my wounds." He forgives our fears and doubts too, and offers us a fresh start. We need to say in our turn, "My Lord and my God."

Today we meet with the risen Christ, just as St Thomas did. Sharing in the Eucharist is our statement of loyalty, our act of personal and shared faith. In praying the Eucharist together we help each other's faith and strengthen our Christian community. It was because the members of the early Church in Jerusalem met in public for prayer and seemed such a joyful little community, that so many others came to believe and the church grew steadily in those early, Spirit-filled days.

No-one else can do our believing for us. Eventually Thomas came to believe in the resurrection, when he saw the risen Jesus with his own eyes. The story ends with a message for all who have received the gift of faith: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe. Our faith is a gift from God. But it is not an inert gift that can we lock away like some precious heirloom. It is a living gift that needs nurturing, to grow and mature. Like other life-forms, faith can wither from neglect. We need to pray about it, think about it, and express it in actions arising from love. This does not mean that we will never have any doubts. But if like Thomas we continue seeking, we too will come into the presence of Jesus and say "My Lord and my God!"



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.

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT 8TH MAY

Tickets coming soon.

Raffle donations gladly received (box in the foyer). All proceeds go towards our parish Jubilee celebrations.



Adoration in St. Stephen's, every Wed. 6.00pm-7.00pm. "The Eucharist is that love which surpasses all loves in Heaven and on earth." - St. Bernard.

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 who is in need of this care. Thanks.



--Details of Parish account: Name: St. Stephens RC Blairgowrie. Account Number: 28075068; Sort Code: 80-22-60.

Last Sunday offertory collection: £830.55;

Holy Places special collection £333.11;

Easter Collection £207.00;

SCIAF Boxes 96.92;

Previous SCIAF Sp. Collection 15/3/26 £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 .



Many prisoners in HMP Perth and Glenochil are working hard to rebuild their lives, making peace with themselves, choosing the part of reconciliation, getting baptised, confirmed and receiving communion. The need materials to prepare for the sacraments, rosaries, prayer books etc if you feel drawn to support them, please reach out to Fr. Gregory to find out how best you can help. Thanks

Relection: Peter's Easter understanding

The post-resurrection liturgical texts offer us a whole lot of materials for our liturgical spirituality to remain alive.

On the one hand, it offers us the episodes of Jesus' appearances to his disciples to encourage and motivate them as well as to assure them that he was still with them. He offered the peace, forgiveness and love and in the breaking of Bread, their eyes opened to recognise him.

On the other hand, through the readings from the Acts of the Apostles, we continue to see how the once timid, fearful apostles are managing the group of believers, becoming emboldened and rediscovering the power that they have in Christ. They paid a big price for their faith and thanks to that supreme sacrifice we too have beneficiaries of this great enterprise. In the text below, Peter immediately begins to assume his role as leader of the group of believers.

"Peter saw how Jesus made visible and tangible all that the Jews had hoped, over many centuries. According to him, all the prophets pre-announced the death and resurrection of Jesus. He echoes what Our Lord said on the evening of Easter day, that everything written about him in Scripture had to be fulfilled. The underlying belief is that God's plans are thoroughly enmeshed in human existence, and are being carried out across the sweep of history. Generations of people have found their hopes sustained, their trials overcome, their laws and habits purified, under the influence of God's prompting Spirit. We in turn ought to share this understanding with our own generation.

In a forgiving spirit, Peter says that the people who rejected Jesus acted out of ignorance. It is easier for us to admit that our lives are guided by providence than to accept that our behaviour can sometimes include ignorance and malice. But if we are honest, our past failings and those of our church must be admitted and healed, not ignored. In our church's recent past, how much harm was done by misguided attempts to cover up wrongdoing, rather than dealing with it. Now, having learned from bitter experience, our church under the leadership of Pope Francis is determined to protect the weak from abuse, no matter what. As St. Peter says, God will not condemn us for what we never intended to do. He asks us to be peaceful and trustful in the face of events that are beyond our control. The Scriptures tell us that the redemption of the world was achieved by Jesus in spite of the ignorance and injustice of those who rejected him. God can indeed write straight, even with crooked lines!

Many people struggle to take in the good news of Easter, to really believe it. They find it easier to identify with the Passion than with the Resurrection. We can easily connect with the suffering of Jesus because we have experienced some suffering ourselves. Like the disciples we stand before the good news of Easter, struggling to believe. We need time to recognize that the risen Lord is indeed among us, saying to us what he said to his disciples, "Peace be with you." He offers us that special peace of mind and heart which is put into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. As we receive this gift of his love he sends us out as agents of forgiveness, as peacemakers, just as he sent out the disciples in the gospel." ACP

Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week.

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