

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 Buckingham 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.

Easter Sunday Yr A 5/4/2026

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 5/4/26

Sunday 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.

5th April: - **Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord** -

Renewal of Baptismal Promises and blessing with Holy Water

+ Mass at 9.30 a.m. in St. Luan's

+ Mass at 11.00 a.m. in St. Stephen's

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

Tues of Easter Octave: Funeral Mass for Late Osborne Priddle at 10am in St. Step's

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

Thurs of Easter Octave -

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

VIGIL MASS:

2nd Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday

+ 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... Mary of Magdala discovers that the tomb is open, she tells the disciples and they go to the tomb.. they saw and understood and believed. Mary remains in the tomb weeping. Jesus appears to her, but tells her that he must ascend to the Father.

Theme: Resurrection, life out of death, rejoicing, alleluia.

Opening Prayer: God of undying life, by your mighty hand you raised up Jesus from the grave and appointed him judge of the living and the dead. Bestow upon those baptised into his death the power flowing from his resurrection, that we may proclaim near and far the pardon and peace you give us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings


Acts 10:34, 37-43 -Peter sums up the whole Paschal Mystery - the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.
Colossians 3:1-4 -We too can share the glory of Christ. *Or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8* -We should celebrate Easter by putting aside any trace of wickedness in us. *Jahn 20:1-9* - In John's description of the resurrection, Mary Magdalene is the first to witness the empty tomb. *Or (at evening Mass): Mt 28:1-10* Mary Magdalene and the other Mary at the tomb. The angel is there and says: "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

"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 sdjbya@gmail.com.

Today/Coming Programmes and Events of the Parish:

5th 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



Reflection of the week. ... Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit. — Loyola Press

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO PROVIDE US WITH A VERY FRUITFUL AND REWARDING EASTER CELEBRATION. Many thanks to the Flower Ladies, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, music directors, cantors, liturgists with children's liturgy, welcomers, money counters, church cleaners, altar decorators, altar servers etc. Well done to you all!



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.

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.

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: £579.21. 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: On the Exultet



Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's
t r i u m p h !
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness. Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

V: The Lord be with you. R: And with your spirit.
P: Lift up your hearts. R: We lift them up to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R: It is right and just. It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten. Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and, pouring out his own dear Blood, wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These then are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers. This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin. This is the night that even now, throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sins leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld.

O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer! The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wedded to those of earth, and divine to the human. On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church. Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

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