

*Welcome to the Parishes of
St. Mungo's, Alloa and St. Serf's, High Valleyfield
Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity Number SC001810*

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**Sunday 17th September 2023 -
Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES

Monday 18th September

NO MASS

Tuesday 19th September

10 a.m. Mass (St. Mungo's) followed by teas in the hall.
2 p.m. Prayer Group (St. Mungo's Hall)

Wednesday 20th September

Memorial of Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon and Companions, Martyrs

10 a.m. Mass (St. Serf's)
6 p.m. - 6.25 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (St. Mungo's)
6 p.m. - 6.25 p.m. Confessions (St Mungo's)
6.30 p.m. Mass (St. Mungo's)

Thursday 21st September *Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

10 a.m. Funeral Mass for Bill Watson RIP (St. Serf's)

Friday 22nd September

10 a.m. Mass followed by confessions (St. Mungo's)

Saturday 23rd September *Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest*

5 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. Confessions (St. Mungo's)
6 p.m. Vigil Mass of Sunday (St. Mungo's)

Sunday 24th September *Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

9.30 a.m. Mass (St. Mungo's)
11.30 a.m. Mass (St. Serf's)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7

Forgive your neighbour the hurt that he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Response to the Psalm:

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 14: 7-9

Alive or dead we belong to the Lord

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:21-35

I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy seven times.

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

IN YOUR PRAYERS....

We pray for all who are ill or housebound: in particular we remember:

Hannah McNally, Jane Fentiman, Fay Miller, Fr. Michael Savage,
Jean Bradley, Veronica McCluskey, Ann Gray, Connie Faccenda.

Marjory Robson (*mother of Bishop Stephen*), Mgr Basil O'Sullivan,
Richard Donald, Bishop Stephen Robson, Fr. John Mundackal CST,
Joe Crumley, Mary Early

Our Lady, Health of the sick, pray for them!

We pray for those who have died recently:

Annie Willis, Janet Walsh

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Canon Ian Mullen, Canon Michael Phelan, Connie and Andy Graham,
Michael McBride, Robert Hutchison, Jean Tierney, Paul Tierney,
John Arthur

Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

FINANCE UPDATE

St. Mungo's: Offertory £534.70 Sick & Retired Priests: £214.56

St. Serf's: Offertory £214.70 Sick & Retired Priests: £95.71

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy this Sunday or next Sunday.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN

If there are any families in the parishes who have children at non-Catholic schools and they would like them to be prepared for First Confession and First Holy Communion (P4) or Confirmation (P7), please email me to let me know. I hope to have a meeting for those interested soon.

PRIMARY ONE WELCOME MASS—ST. MUNGO’S

Next Sunday, we will welcome to the 9.30 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo’s the new Primary One children, their families and teachers from St. Mungo’s Primary. Tea and coffee will be served in the hall after Mass.

COUNTRY MUSIC PICNIC EVENING

The WDR Band and the Dolly Mixtures are presenting a country music evening in St. Mungo’s Hall on **Friday 22nd September**. Doors open 7pm for 7.30 until 11pm. Bring your own bottle and nibbles and set up your own picnic table. Tickets are £5 and available from Roberta Madden at the back of the church after Mass. There will also be a raffle and all proceeds from the evening will go to charity. So mosey along to the church hall with your checked shirts and cowboy hats and sing along to some good old country music. See y’all there!

ST. MUNGO’S 200 CLUB

As you might be aware Jock McCutcheon, who helped with the 200 club for many years has decided to step down. Liz Bryce who has also helped for the last couple of years is also stepping down. It was originally set up to help finance the building of the church hall 30 years ago and in that time it has raised thousands of pounds for the parish. It would be a shame to have to stop the 200 club, but if there is no-one to take on the responsibility of running it, that might have to happen. If anyone would like to help or find out more about what would be involved, please let me know.

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA PRO-LIFE MASS

The Knights invite you to join them to pray for an end to abortion and prevent the introduction of euthanasia. There will be a Mass for Life on **Saturday 7th October at 12 noon in St. Margaret’s Memorial Church, East Port, Dunfermline**. After Mass there will be refreshments and visiting speakers.

*A little thought for those who enter this church:
be thoughtful ~ be silent ~ be reverent*

**Before Mass: speak to God
During Mass: let God speak to YOU
After Mass: speak to others**