

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
<b>Sunday 14th January</b> <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	Bishop Logan (Anniv.)
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Dina Togneri (Anniv.)
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 15th January</b> <i>2nd Week in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>CELEBRATED</b>	<b>TODAY</b>
<b>Tuesday 16th January</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>CELEBRATED</b>	<b>TODAY</b>
<b>Wednesday 17th January</b> <i>St. Antony, Abbot</i>	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>CELEBRATED</b>	<b>TODAY</b>
<b>Thursday 18th January</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>CELEBRATED</b>	<b>TODAY</b>
<b>Friday 19th January</b> <i>St. Fillan, Bishop</i>	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>CELEBRATED</b>	<b>TODAY</b>
<b>Saturday 20th January</b>	<b>5 to 5.30 p.m.</b>	<b>St. Mungo's</b>	<b>Confessions</b>	
	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	Mgr. Harty (Anniv.)
<b>Sunday 21st January</b> <i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	People of the Parish
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Mgr. Harty (Anniv.)

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Will recommence next week in both churches.

**Teas/coffees**

No tea/coffees this week

**St. Mungo's Prayer Group**

Meets on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.  
In St. Mungo's Hall.

**PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Parish Priest:** Father Michael Carrie (email: stmungo@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)  
**Postal Address:** St. Mungo's Chapel House, 25 Mar Street, Alloa FK10 1HR  
**Telephone:** 01259 212486      **Parish Website:** www.catholicalloa.com

**St. Mungo's Hall Bookings:** Cathie Ramage  
**Telephone:** 07596 955869      **Email:** ramagethrn@gmail.com

**Parish Safeguarding co-ordinators:** Margaret Fern and Jean Gilbert  
**Email:** stmungopsc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

**Parish SVDP**

**Telephone:** 07866 538557      **Email:** SVDP.StMungos@gmail.com

**Marriages & Baptisms**

Arrangements for weddings, for which six months notice is required, as well as Baptisms should be made by appointment with the Parish Priest.

*St. Mungo's, Alloa and St. Serf's, High Valleyfield are parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld, a charity registered in Scotland, Number SC001810*

*Welcome to the Parishes of  
St. Mungo's, Alloa and St. Serf's, High Valleyfield*

*Sunday 14th January 2024 -  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)*



Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist. We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him Peter, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels.

In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

**POST-CHRISTMAS BREAK**

I am taking a couple of days break this week, so there will be no public Masses. I am not going away but just having a couple of quiet days to myself. I can still be contacted in case of emergency.

**ST. MUNGO'S CLEAN-UP**

If you are free this Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m., there will be a group of parishioners giving the grounds of St. Mungo's a tidy-up. If you have any gardening equipment, feel free to bring it along. Please speak to Jim Bryce for more information.

### **IN YOUR PRAYERS....**

#### **We pray for all who are ill/housebound: in particular we remember:**

Hannah McNally, Jane Fentiman, Fay Miller, Veronica McCluskey, Ann Gray,  
Joe Crumley, Jacqui Cadwallender, Richard Donald,  
Marjory Robson (*mother of Bishop Stephen*), Bishop Stephen Robson,  
Mgr Neil Gallagher, Patsy Donald  
*Our Lady, Health of the sick, pray for them!*

#### **We pray for those who have died recently:**

Allan Lennon, Mary Sommerville, Anna O'Neill, Ann Delaney (*Funeral Mass in St. Mungo's on Tuesday 23rd January at 10 a.m.*)

#### **We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:**

Cardinal George Pell, Bishop Vincent Logan, Mgr. John Canon Harty,  
Bishop George Rigg (Bishop of Dunkeld 1878-1887), Canon Rupert Loughlin,  
Susan Cassidy, Betty Strachan, Pat Quinn, Dina Togneri  
*Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen*

### **LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS**

St. Mungo's: Offertory £642.55      Justice & Peace £198.01

St. Serf's: Offertory £270.52      Justice & Peace £80.10

***Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.***

### **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS 2024**

Sunday 18th February	Ecclesiastical Students Fund
Sunday 10th March	Papal and Episcopal Charities (inc. SCIAF)
Sunday 12th May	Communications
Sunday 16th June	Day for Life
Sunday 30th June	Peter's Pence
Sunday 14th July	Apostleship of the Sea
Sunday 4th August	Bishop's Mensal Fund
Sunday 8th September	Sick and Retired Priests Fund
Sunday 20th October	Mission Sunday
Sunday 17th November	Catholic Education Service
Sunday 1st December	Poor Mission Fund

### **EXPLORE - A RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

Thinking about a vocation to the religious life? Join other young Catholic women to chat and explore God's will in monthly get-togethers in Edinburgh. Led by Sister Mirjam Hugens FSO, Vocations Director for religious vocations, the first get-together takes place on **Sunday 28th January**, 4-7pm at St Columba's, 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh. It is a chance to pray, share and discuss in a relaxed environment, and refreshments will be served. The series continues each month at the same time/venue on 25th February, 17th March, 21st April, 12th May, 22nd June. To register or find out more about exploring religious life, please email Sister Mirjam on [religiousvocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk)

<https://archedinburgh.org/event/explore-a-retreat-for-young-women/>

### **PARISH DIRECTORY**

It is my hope to put together a list of those in the parish who would be willing to help in some way with the practical aspects of keeping our parish buildings in good condition. If you are or you know of someone who is a tradesperson and might be useful to the parishes, could you please let me know. It is always handy to know who in the parish is a joiner, plumber, electrician and so on, in case we are ever in need of their skills.

### **ST. MUNGO'S PRIMARY ENROLMENT FOR PRIMARY ONE**

All children who have their 5th birthday before 28th February 2025 are of statutory school age and may start education in August 2024. Pre-enrolment forms can be completed online by clicking the following link. <https://forms.office.com/e/BtGxAwzdAb> Once complete, a member of school staff will contact you to arrange an appointment to visit the school and complete enrolment paperwork. The online pre-enrolment form should be completed by 29th January 2024. If you have any questions about our school enrolment process, please contact the school office on 01259 724061.

### **ST. SERF'S PRIMARY ENROLMENT FOR PRIMARY ONE**

Our online enrolment system for pupils due to start primary one in August 2024 is now open for applications. All parents/carers of any child eligible to start primary one in August 2024 should submit an enrolment application online at [www.fife.gov.uk/applyforaschoolplace](http://www.fife.gov.uk/applyforaschoolplace). Any further questions please contact St. Serf's. Tel 01383 602436 or Email -[Stserfsrcps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Stserfsrcps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk)

***Any parents/carers whose children were baptised in either St. Mungo's or St. Serf's and require a copy of the baptismal certificate for enrolling their child should email Fr Michael to request this.***

### **CONVERSION PRACTICE LEGISLATION**

The Scottish Government launched a consultation last Tuesday regarding the possible banning of what it refers to as "conversion practices". The Catholic church has expressed serious concern at the nature and scope of any such legislation. A spokesperson for the Catholic church said:

"While the Church supports legislation which protects people from physical and verbal abuse a fundamental pillar of any free society is that the state recognises and respects the right of religious bodies and organisations to be free to teach the fulness of their beliefs and to support, through prayer, counsel and other pastoral means, their members who wish to live in accordance with those beliefs.

We would urge the Scottish Government, not to criminalise mainstream religious pastoral care, parental guidance, and medical or other professional intervention relating to sexual orientation, which is not approved by the State as acceptable. The worrying lack of clarity about what is meant by the term 'conversion practices' could create a chilling effect and may criminalise advice or opinion given in good faith."

The church will now take time to consider the consultation document with a view to submitting a response in due course.