

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
<b>Sunday 7th January</b> <i>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (B)</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	Holy Souls
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Peter Togneri (Anniv.)
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 8th January</b> <i>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</i>	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>CELEBRATED</b>	<b>TODAY</b>
<b>Tuesday 9th January</b> <i>1st Week of the Year</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's (Oratory)	Mass	
<b>Wednesday 10th January</b> <i>Feria</i>	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	
	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>IN</b>	<b>ST. MUNGO'S</b>
<b>Thursday 11th January</b> <i>Feria</i>	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Funeral Mass	Joe Rafferty (RIP)
<b>Friday 12th January</b>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's (Church)	Mass	
<b>Saturday 13th January</b> <i>Feast of St. Mungo</i>	<b>5 to 5.30 p.m.</b>	<b>St. Mungo's</b>	<b>Confessions</b>	
	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	
<b>Sunday 14th January</b> <i>Second Sunday of the Year (B)</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Dina Togneri (Anniv.)
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	People of the Parish

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Will recommence next week in both churches.

**Teas/coffees**

Tuesday after 10am Mass in St. Mungo's  
Wednesday after 10am Mass in St. Serf's

**St. Mungo's Prayer Group**

Will next meet on **Tuesday 16th January**  
from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

**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 7th January 2024 -  
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Year B)*



The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

**SOLEMN ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER AND THE MOVEABLE FEASTS 2024**

*Know, dear brethren,  
that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
so by leave of God's mercy  
we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection,  
who is our Saviour.  
On the fourteenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday,  
and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.  
On the thirty-first day of March, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,  
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
On the ninth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
On the nineteenth day of May, the feast of Pentecost.  
On the second day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.  
On the first day of December, the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

### 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, Allan Lennon.  
Marjory Robson (*mother of Bishop Stephen*), Richard Donald,  
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:**  
Irene Condie, Anne Delaney (Alloa)

**We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:**  
Bishop Vincent Logan, Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, Margaret Peddie,  
Elizabeth Samson, Freddie Solomon.  
*Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen*

### LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS

St. Mungo's: £780.09      St. Serf's: £283

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

***This weekend there will be a special collection for Justice and Peace Scotland***

### SOLEMNITY OF ST. MUNGO

This year as the feast day falls on a Saturday, we will pre-empt it on the Friday. At the morning Mass, our parish primary school will join us and lead us in our Mass to celebrate our parish and school patron saint.



### EPIPHANY CHALK

It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Masses for Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. Chalk will be blessed during our Masses this weekend, for you to take away and bless your homes.

The home blessing can be done as follows: Use the blessed chalk to write: **20+C+M+B+24** above the doorways: 2024 for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi – Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar – and for **Christus Mansionem Benedicat**, Latin for “May Christ Bless this House.” As you are writing, pray the following prayer: *Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### IONA PILGRIMAGE

Sadly due to lack of numbers, it has been decided to cancel our proposed pilgrimage to Iona. My thanks to those who did express an interest and to Cathie Ramage for helping to organise. Deposits will be returned this weekend.

### END OF CHRISTMASTIDE

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday marks the end of Christmastide and the church returns to a period of Ordinary Time. The cribs in both churches will remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord which we celebrate on Friday 2nd February.

### LETTER FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE SUNDAY 2024

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Astronauts share a unique experience, for they have been able to go into outer space and look down in awe and see the beauty of the earth. The astronauts see the earth as God gave it to us, one earth, one world.



But for us, when we look at our maps, we see a world that is divided by lines, indicating the borders and the barriers that partition this one world into territories and countries. We put up walls, we erect fences of barbed wire and we say to our fellow human beings “this is my land, this land and its resources are not yours but mine”. But God has given this one world to all of humanity, so that all human beings can live and flourish and grow, sharing its resources.

We have, of course, got to manage creation, and organise it. We cannot have chaos. But can we say to someone living where it is arid and barren, that they have no right to come here where the soil is good and the food is plentiful, because this is my territory? Do migrants and refugees not have God-given rights to move to a better life?

The borders we create are often the cause of friction. How many wars are fought over disputed territory, both sides claiming it as their land? How much conflict as people seek to claim for their own the oil, the gas or the mineral wealth that lies under the surface? How many countries grow wealthy, keeping for themselves the riches of the earth and see no obligation to share with the poor?

We are a long way from living in a world where all benefit from the gift of creation given by God to all. We are a long way from peace when countries continue to fight for what they claim is theirs. We are a long way from a united world where we work together for the good of all humanity.

We are not the owners of God's earth, we are its stewards. The astronauts in space see a world that is beautiful and so it is. It is also rich and plentiful, with resources given to us by God for the good of everyone. Poverty will only disappear when the earth's resources are fairly shared. Only when we act as stewards and not as owners of creation will there be peace and justice on earth.

May Jesus the Prince of Peace inspire us to work for justice and so establish a peaceful world.

+William Nolan

*Bishop President of Justice and Peace Scotland*

### PARISH STATISTICS FOR 2023

	St. Mungo's	St. Serf's
<b>Baptisms</b>	7	1
<b>First Communions</b>	14	2
<b>Confirmations</b>	10	1
<b>Marriages</b>	2	0
<b>Funerals</b>	18	4
<b>Average Mass attendance</b>	187	40