

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
Sunday 17th March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	Danny Lennon (RIP)
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Private Intention
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Lizzie Duff (RIP)
Monday 18th March	NO	MASS	CELEBRATED	TODAY
Tuesday 19th March <i>Solemnity of St. Joseph</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's <i>(Main church)</i>	Mass	Catherine Hutchison (Anni)
Wednesday 20th March	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Annie McNeely (RIP)
	6.30 p.m.	St. Mungo's <i>(Oratory)</i>	Mass	Mary Ottmar (Anniv.)
Thursday 21st March	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Danny Lennon (RIP)
Friday 22nd March	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's <i>(Main church)</i>	Mass	John Boyle (Anniv.)
Saturday 23rd March	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	People of the Parish
Sunday 24th March <i>Palm Sunday (B)</i> <i>Beginning of Holy Week</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Danny Lennon (RIP)
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Private Intention

<p><u>Sacrament of Confession</u> Wednesday in St. Mungo's from 6 p.m. to 6.25 p.m. Thursday in St. Serf's from 9.30 a.m. to 9.55 a.m. Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in St. Mungo's NO CONFESSIONS ON FRIDAY MORNING Saturday in St. Mungo's from 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.</p> <p><u>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</u> Wednesday in St. Mungo's from 6 p.m. to 6.25 p.m. Thursday in St. Serf's from 9.30 a.m. to 9.55 a.m. Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in St. Mungo's NO EXPOSITION ON FRIDAY MORNING</p>	<p><u>Stations of the Cross</u> Sunday in St. Mungo's at 4 p.m. Wednesday in St. Serf's at 9.30 a.m.</p> <p><u>St. Mungo's Prayer Group</u> Tuesday 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in St. Mungo's Hall</p> <p><u>Teas/coffees</u> Tuesday after 10 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's Hall Wednesday after 10 a.m. Mass in St. Serf's Hall Last Sunday of the month after 9.30 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's Hall</p>
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PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 17th March 2024 -
Fifth Sunday of Lent - (Year B)*

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world. © 2024 Loyola Press.

PASSIONTIDE

As Christ hid himself from the rage of the Jewish authorities (St John 8:59), so now He is hidden from the world in preparation for the mysteries of His passion. In His passion, our Saviour's divinity was almost totally eclipsed, so great was His suffering. Likewise, even His humanity was obscured – so much so that He could say through His prophet: *I am a worm and no man* (Psalm 21:7). His face and whole body were so disfigured by the blows and scourges that our Jesus was scarcely recognizable! Thus, the wounds He endured hid both His divinity and His humanity. For this reason, we veil the crosses and statues in these final days of Lent – hiding our Saviour under the sad purple cloth.

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, Mgr Neil Gallagher,
Marjory Robson (*mother of Bishop Stephen*), Bishop Stephen Robson, Brian Bell,
Margaret Renton, Liam McArthur
Our Lady, Health of the sick, pray for them!

We pray for those who have died recently:

Donald Campbell, Maria Methven (Perth).

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien, Archbishop James Donald Scanlan, Mary Ottmar,
Fr Bartholomew Butler, Charles, Elizabeth and Stephen Reynolds, Harry Dunion,
Alan Lennon

Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS

St. Mungo's: Offertory £870.91 Special Collection £438.33

St. Serf's: Offertory £255.21 Special Collection £118.65

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

***I acknowledge with thanks the two recent donations of £100 and £250 towards
the building repair fund for St. Mungo's.***

LENT PROJECT

This weekend and next we continue to have our retiring collection for the Lent Project. This will be split between **Aid to the Church in Need** and **Friends of the Holy Land**. These charities are supporting the efforts of those suffering in the Holy Land due to the ongoing conflict there.

PRO-LIFE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join people from across Scotland each Monday throughout Lent for Stations of the Cross. It takes place on Zoom at 7.45 p.m. and lasts around 30 minutes. Each week after the Stations various priests from across Scotland will give a short reflection. I have been asked to give the reflection this Monday. We will be praying for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/lentstations

EXTRA LENTEN CONFESSIONS

This Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in St. Mungo's there will be extra opportunity for confession before Easter. During this time there will also be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Fr Martin Pletts will help hear confessions.

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF OUR NEW BISHOP

The episcopal ordination of Bishop-Elect Martin will take place on **Saturday 27th April at 11 a.m. in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee**. Entry to the Mass will be by ticket only due to the limited space in the cathedral. Each parish will be allocated a number of tickets shortly (as yet we don't know how many), and we will draw names out of a hat. If you would like to attend please add your name to the list in the church.

ST. MUNGO'S SOCIAL GROUP

We are going to be hosting an Easter egg hunt in the church hall on Easter Sunday (31st March) after Mass, everyone is welcome and we would really love if people could join for a fun Easter celebration. There will also be tea and toast available the same day as it is the last Sunday of the month.

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BVM - Tuesday 19th March

St. Joseph is shown in the Gospels as the wise and just man, who had worked out the kindest way to deal with Our Blessed Lady's mysterious pregnancy. He then was able to accept the will of God which pointed out a different path even when it contradicted his life plans. He has acquired many titles: Spouse of Our Lady; Foster-Father of the Child Jesus; Protector of the Church; Guardian of the Holy Family and patron of a happy death.

HOLY WEEK IN OUR PARISHES

Saturday 23rd March

Confessions from 5 to 5.30 p.m. in St. Mungo's
Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday at 6 p.m. in St. Mungo's

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Mass at 9.30 a.m. in St. Mungo's (*Weather permitting, we will gather in the hall five minutes before Mass and process around to the church.*)

Mass at 11.30 a.m. followed by confessions in St. Serf's
Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 4 p.m. in St. Mungo's

Tuesday 26th March – Tuesday in Holy Week

Mass at 10 a.m. followed by confessions in St. Mungo's
Ecumenical Service (Stations of the Cross) at 7 p.m. in St. Mungo's

Wednesday 27th March – Wednesday in Holy Week

Stations of the Cross at 9.30 a.m. in St. Serf's
Mass at 10 a.m. followed by confessions in St. Serf's
ChrisM Mass at 7 p.m. in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee

Thursday 28th March – Holy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m. in St. Mungo's
Watching at the Altar of Repose until Night Prayer at 9 p.m.

Friday 29th March – Good Friday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

Special Collection for the Holy Places in Jerusalem
Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. in St. Mungo's
Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3 p.m. in St. Mungo's
Stations of the Cross at 6.30 p.m. in St. Serf's

Saturday 30th March – Holy Saturday

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. in St. Mungo's
Blessing of Polish Food Baskets at 12 noon in St. Mungo's
Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. in St. Mungo's

Sunday 31st March – Easter Sunday

Mass at 9.30 a.m. in St. Mungo's
Mass at 11.30 a.m. in St. Serf's

The celebration of the Easter Triduum is the highpoint of the church's liturgical year. I would encourage you to try attend all three of the main celebrations on Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday afternoon and Holy Saturday evening for the Great Easter Vigil. They are one continuous celebration spread over three days! Please also consider inviting anyone who has been away from church for a while to consider joining with us as we celebrate together the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.