

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
<b>Sunday 10th March</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)</i> <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	People of the Parish
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Lizzie Duff
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Mary Gallagher (Anniv.)
<b>Monday 11th March</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>CELEBRATED</b>	<b>TODAY</b>
<b>Tuesday 12th March</b>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's <i>(Main church)</i>	Mass	Margaret Renton (Sick)
<b>Wednesday 13th March</b>	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Annie McNeely (RIP)
	6.30 p.m.	St. Mungo's <i>(Oratory)</i>	Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Lizzie Duff (RIP)
<b>Friday 15th March</b>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's <i>(Main church)</i>	Mass	Marion Currie (Anniv.)
<b>Saturday 16th March</b>	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	Danny Lennon (RIP)
<b>Sunday 17th March</b> <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Private Intention
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Lizzie Duff (RIP)

#### Sacrament of Confession

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.  
Friday in St. Mungo's after Mass until 11 a.m.  
Saturday in St. Mungo's from 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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.  
Friday in St. Mungo's from after Mass until 11 a.m.

#### Stations of the Cross

**Sunday in St. Mungo's at 4 p.m.**  
**Wednesday in St. Serf's at 9.30 a.m.**

**St. Mungo's Prayer Group**  
Tuesday 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in St. Mungo's Hall

#### Teas/coffees

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

#### PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

**Parish Priest:** Father Michael Carrie (email: [stmungo@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.catholicalloa.com)

**St. Mungo's Hall Bookings:** Cathie Ramage  
**Telephone:** 07596 955869 **Email:** [ramagethrn@gmail.com](mailto:ramagethrn@gmail.com)

**Parish Safeguarding co-ordinators:** Margaret Fern and Jean Gilbert  
**Email:** [stmungopsc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:stmungopsc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)

#### Parish SVDP

**Telephone:** 07866 538557 **Email:** [SVDP.StMungos@gmail.com](mailto:SVDP.StMungos@gmail.com)

*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 10th March 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday (Year B)*

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy's opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.



Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives. © 2024 Loyola Press.



**This weekend there will be a special collection for  
the Papal & Episcopal Charities  
(which includes SCIAF)**

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

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

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

Marion Currie, Catherine Hutchison, John Boyle, Josephine Kiernan, Moira Warner,  
Mary Gallagher

*Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen*

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

St. Mungo's: Offertory £1094.20      Lent Project £166.37

St. Serf's: Offertory £358.45      Lent Project £114.51

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

***I acknowledge with thanks the two recent donations of £1000 and £500 towards the building repair fund for St. Mungo's.***

### **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** More details will follow later, however for now we continue to keep him in our prayers, as he prepares for this important event.

### **LENT PROJECT**

This year in our parishes, we will do something similar to what we do in Advent. **On the 2nd, 3rd, 5th Sundays of Lent and Palm Sunday**, there will be buckets/baskets in both churches for people to place donations. This will then 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., beginning on 19th February, 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 on Monday 18th March. We will be praying for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at [bit.ly/lentstations](http://bit.ly/lentstations)

### **EXTRA LENTEN CONFESSIONS**

On **Thursday 21st March from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.** in St. Mungo's there will be extra opportunity for confession before Easter with a visiting priest. During this time there will also be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

### **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.

### **ST. MUNGO'S FABRIC UPDATE**

On Wednesday of this week, work will begin on the repairs to the three flat roofs on the church building. The majority of the work will focus on the flat roof which is to the rear of the sacristy buildings. Please bear this in mind if parking around beside the hall. I also recently had a damp survey carried out in the church and it was found there are several areas of rising damp just as you enter the side door of the church and also in the weekday oratory. They also found damp/water ingress on the large windows in the organ/choir area. Work to repair this will hopefully begin after Easter.

### **ST. MUNGO'S PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE**

Lezli-Anne Sharp, chair of the Parent Council writes: We have been made aware that a report will be going to Council on 21st March with regards to the option appraisal that has been carried out for the possible new school. We are unaware of what will be in this report as it has yet to be circulated. George Marcinkiewicz, the Diocesan Education Rep for Clackmannanshire, will be attending this meeting. The voices of the parents/children and parishioners need to be heard to ensure the best outcome for our children and future children of the school. Please do let us know of any concerns/reasons why you feel that St Mungo's should not stay in Alloa Academy. Yes, we have a great school and this is due to the teachers and staff. What we need to focus on is the wider learning environment and how the school accommodation affects our children's experiences. Some examples of concerns that have been raised are: Language the older school use in corridors/playgrounds; How easy/difficult it is for our children to move around the school building and access toilets/gyms etc; How you feel about a primary being in a secondary school. These are only some examples of concerns parents and children may have and is not limited to the above. If you have anything at all you'd like to say or be heard by Councillors, then either fill in the form below or email/message the Parent Council. Whatever makes you comfortable (it will all be anonymous). From this information the Parent Council will then draft a summary of the point raised by St Mungo's parent community for George to share at the Council meeting. This is the time for our voices to be heard, the school and our children need you!

Online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/tSGvanYkR2?origin=lprLink>

Email: [stmungosrcpspc@gmail.com](mailto:stmungosrcpspc@gmail.com)

### **EASTER TRIDUUM - ADVANCE NOTICE OF SERVICES.**

#### **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