

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
Sunday 12th May <i>7th Sunday of Easter (B)</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	People of the Parish
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Maggie Brotherton (Anniv.)
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Anna Fraser (Anniv.)
Monday 13th May <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	NO MASS CELEBRATED TODAY			
Tuesday 14th May <i>Feast of St. Matthias</i> <i>Apostle</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Janet Lennon (Anniv.)
Wednesday 15th May	NO MASSES CELEBRATED TODAY I am attending a meeting in Perth in the morning and then the public meeting about the school in the evening.			
Thursday 16th May	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	
Friday 17th May	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Joseph Clinton (Anniv.)
Saturday 18th May	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's		James Irwin (RIP)
Sunday 19th May <i>Pentecost Sunday (B)</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	People of the Parish
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	

<p style="text-align: center;">Rosary</p> <p>Wednesdays in St. Serf's at 9.30 a.m. Fridays in St. Mungo's at 9.30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sacrament of Confession</p> <p>No confessions this Wednesday</p> <p>Thursday in St. Serf's from 9.30 a.m. to 9.55 a.m. Friday in St. Mungo's after 10 a.m. Mass Saturday in St. Mungo's from 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p>No Exposition in St. Mungo's this week Thursday in St. Serf's from 9.30 a.m. to 9.55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Mungo's Prayer Group</p> <p>Tuesday 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in St. Mungo's Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Teas/coffees</p> <p>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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Parish SVDP

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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 12th May 2024 - Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year B)*



Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others. When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God. Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

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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, Jacqui Cadwallender, Richard Donald, Mgr Neil Gallagher, Maureen Malkiewicz, Catherine Strathearn, Matthew Kelly, Marjory Robson (*mother of Bishop Stephen*), Bishop Stephen Robson, Brian Bell, Margaret Renton, Lewis McArthur, Eden Smyth, Angie Mortimer-Farthing, John Ferguson.
Our Lady, Health of the sick, pray for them!

We pray for those who have died recently:

Joseph Crumley (*Funeral Mass Tuesday 21st May at 10am in St. Mungo's*), James Irwin

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Fr. John Murphy, Fr. Peter Foylan, Fr. Alexander Kerr, Fr. Philip Donnelly, Fr. Jacob Edakalathur CST, Joseph Clinton, Roddy Murray, Janet Lennon, John "Ian" Mackintosh.
Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS

St. Mungo's: Offertory collection: £710.45 Direct to bank: £255.50 Total: £965.95

St. Serf's: Offertory Collection: £292.70

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

This weekend here will be a special collection for Communications

I acknowledge with thanks the very generous anonymous donation of £10,000 to St. Mungo's Building Fund.

DIOCESAN LEVY ("tax" taken by the diocese from each parish)

General Purpose Levy (St. Mungo's) 2024 (based on income for 2023)

Assessable Income 2023 - **£50,477.95**

2024 Levy @ 25% - **£12,619.49**

Payments already made (Jan-Apr) - **£2,829.84**

Balance remaining - **£9,789.64**

Monthly direct debits from 28 May 2024 - **£1,223.71**

General Purpose Levy (St. Serf's) 2024 (based on income for 2023)

Assessable Income 2023 - **£18,626.12**

2024 Levy @ 15% - **£2,793.92**

Payments already made (Jan-Apr) - **£591.75**

Balance remaining - **£2,202.17**

Monthly direct debits from 28 May 2024 - **£275.27**

£0-£24,999 @15%

£25,000 - £26,999 @ 19%

£27,000-£34,999@ 21%

£35,000 - £42,999 @ 22%

£43,000 - £47,999 @ 23%

£48,000 - £51,999 @ 25%

£52,000 - £59,999 @27%

£60,000 - £64,999 @29%

£65,000 plus @ 30%

Bandings for Levy calculated by the Diocese, based on annual income for each parish.

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA

During the Masses this weekend in St. Mungo's, there will be a pulpit address from John Glass of the Knights of St. Columba. The Knights are hoping to recruit some new members for their Council.

MAY—MONTH OF OUR LADY

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Our Blessed Lady. During this month there will be Marian Devotions in both churches - in St. Serf's we will say the rosary on Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m. and in St. Mungo's we will have the rosary on Fridays at 9.30 a.m. **The annual Marian Procession will take place in St. Mungo's this Sunday at 3 p.m.** We will begin in the hall, before processing around to the church where we will pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. This will be followed by a period of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, then Benediction. *If it is raining then we shall have the procession inside the church.*

PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING RELOCATION OF ST. MUNGO'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

A reminder that the Public Meeting about the proposed permanent relocation of our parish primary school into Alloa Academy takes place **this Wednesday evening at 6.30 p.m. in the Bowmar Centre, Scott Crescent.** Please try to attend this meeting and let the council know that we **DO NOT** wish our primary school to remain within the academy building, and we want a new school building of our own.

ST. MODAN'S HIGH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY SUPPER AND CEILIDH

To mark the end of the school's 90th year, St Modan's Anniversary Committee have organised a semi-formal buffet supper and ceilidh for all members of the school's family. So, whether you are a former pupil, parent, former member of staff or current, you are warmly invited to attend this unique event. This celebration will take place on the evening of **Friday 21st June** in Stirling's Albert Halls – and will feature entertainment from St Modan's alumni. The start time will be 7.00 for 7.30 pm, the ticket price will be £20 per head - which will cover food and entertainment in a sumptuous location- and the event will include a well-stocked licensed bar. Tickets can be reserved by contacting the school office on 01786 470962.

SVDP UPDATE

Anthony Cassidy writes: *We continue to be blown away by the generosity shown in the donations we receive via our weekly collection. Many thanks for your continued support and additional thanks to those who contribute via standing order plus a special mention to the Woolly Knitters who are also currently supporting SVDP.*

We are engaging with other support groups within the community and continue to look for opportunities to help those in need, including visiting those who are unable to get out or have a befriending need. Let me know if you are aware of anyone who'd like a visit.

Lastly I'm looking for volunteers for each Mass (Saturday evening and Sunday morning) to stand at the end of Mass to hold the SVDP box - no other commitment! The only requirement is the ability to smile (or scowl). This small service will be a big help and if I can get four helpers each Mass then it will only be once a month. Many thanks and God Bless.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please remember in your prayers the children who will receive Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for the first time during the 9.30 a.m. Mass next Sunday in St. Mungo's. Mass next Sunday might be slightly more busier than usual with the children, their families and guests. Please make our visitors feel welcome!

PENTECOST SUNDAY

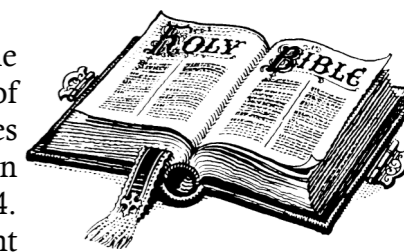
Next Sunday the church celebrates the great solemnity of Pentecost, when we remember the birth of the church, when the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles and Our Lady. At the Vigil Mass next Saturday, we will welcome into full communion with the Catholic Church, the Averins family - Tim, Natalya, Sofia and Daniel. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this special day.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Today is World Communications Day, and there will be a special collection for the apostolate of communications. This helps fund the Scottish Catholic Media Office, which represents the Catholic Church in Scotland. In his message for today, Pope Francis urges us to cultivate wisdom of the heart in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI). His letter can be read on the Vatican website www.vatican.va

NEW LECTIONARY

The Holy See's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the approval by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for the new Lectionary. The Lectionary, which includes the scripture readings for Mass and the sacraments, will come into use in Catholic parishes in England & Wales and Scotland from Advent 2024. Cardinal Arthur Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery, wrote to Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, confirming the new translation of the Lectionary, which has been done in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.



This will mean those parishioners who use a Sunday Missal will need to purchase a new one with the updated Scripture Readings, which will be taken from English Standard Version - Catholic Edition translation of the bible. New versions of the Sunday Missal (priced £19.95) will be available from October, however if anyone would like to pre-order one through the parish please add your name to the list in the church.