

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
Sunday 16th June <i>11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	Mary Byrne (RIP)
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Rosalind Bennett (Anniv.)
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	People of the Parish
Monday 17th June	NO MASS CELEBRATED TODAY			
Tuesday 18th June	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Christine O'Shea (RIP)
Wednesday 19th June	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Holy Souls
	6.30 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Margaret Madden (Anniv.)
Thursday 20th June	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Jennifer Burdon (Anniv.)
Friday 21st June <i>St. Aloysius Gonzaga</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Funeral Mass for Sally Harrick RIP	
Saturday 22nd June	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	People of the Parish
Sunday 23rd June <i>12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Hannah McNally (RIP)
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	People of the Parish

<p>Sacrament of Confession Wednesday in St. Mungo's from 6pm to 6.25pm 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>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesday in St. Mungo's from 6pm to 6.25pm Thursday in St. Serf's from 9.30 a.m. to 9.55 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Mungo's Prayer Group Tuesday 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in St. Mungo's Hall</p> <p>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</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 16th June 2024 - 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Parables are meant to leave the hearers wondering. They are not straight-forward answers to questions. They are food for thought. In the Gospels Jesus is rarely concerned about facts and figures, dates and times. By using parables Jesus is trying to engage his listeners at a deeper level. He wants his teaching to seize their hearts. He wants them to discover the truth of what he is saying for themselves. It is part of the business of conversion - coming to see with new eyes.

It is wonderful to see Jesus, again and again, looking at life and at what's happening around him, for things and images that might help the people to detect and to experience the presence of the Kingdom. In Mark's Gospel the Kingdom is not something yet to come, it is a present reality. It is the presence and action (reign) of God among his people. That may not always been readily seen, but it is there none the less. It may seem to have humble beginnings (like the small seed in the second parable), but the experience of it grows into something all-consuming.

The farmer who plants the seed knows the process: first the seed, then the green shoot, the leaf, the ear and the grain. The farmer knows how to wait and will not cut the stalk before it is time, but he does not know from where the power comes for the soil, the rain, the sun and the seed to make a seed turn into fruit. That's what the Kingdom of God is like. It's a process. There are stages and points of growth. It takes time and happens in time. The fruit comes at the right time but no one can explain its mysterious power.

The mustard seed is small, but it grows, to the point where the birds can make their nests in its branches. That's what the Kingdom is like. It begins as something very small, it grows and spreads its branches providing shelter and shade where new life grows.

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Left to right: Fr. Andrew Marshall; Bishop Stephen Robson; Fr Michael; Fr Mike Freyne; Fr Leszek Wiececzek

THANK-YOU

I would like to express my thanks to all those who came along last Monday to join with me as I celebrated my tenth anniversary of priestly ordination. It was a lovely celebration both in the church and hall, and I am grateful to all who were involved in the Mass and buffet afterwards. Thanks also to those who handed in cards and gifts. Oremus pro invicem – let us pray for one another! God bless, Fr Michael.

IN YOUR PRAYERS....

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

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, Lewis McArthur, Eden Smyth, John Ferguson.

Angie Mortimer-Farthing,

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

We pray for those who have died recently:

Mary Byrne, Christine O'Shea, Hannah McNally (*Funeral Mass on Thursday 27th June at 10am in St. Mungo's*).

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Jennifer Burdon, Wullie Brown, Margaret Madden

Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

LAST WEEK'S INCOME

	St. Mungo's	St. Serf's
Offertory	£739.15	£275.50
Standing Orders	£315.50	
Building Fund	£30	
Votive Candles		£183.50
Tuesday Teas	£31.90	
TOTAL	£1116.55	£459.00

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

This weekend there will be a special collection for the annual Day for Life.

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.

St. Modan's 90th Anniversary Mass

This will be celebrated at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Upper Bridge Street, Stirling on **Thursday 20th June at 7p.m.** Former and current pupils, along with any staff and families associated with St. Modan's are warmly invited to share in the celebration of the school's 90th year. Archbishop Cushley will celebrate Mass as we give thanks for the past 90 years and look forward to the years ahead.

AFTERNOON TEA WITH THE DOLLY MIXTURES

Following the successful concert last year in St. Serf's, the Dolly Mixtures have agreed to put on another concert on **Sunday 7th July at 2 p.m. in St. Serf's Church Hall.** Tickets £3 and will be on sale in St. Serf's this Sunday.

ST. MUNGO'S SOCIAL GROUP - EUROPEAN WINE TASTING TOUR

The Social Group invite you to join them for a European Wine Tasting evening in St. Mungo's Church hall on **Friday 28th June 2024 at 7 p.m.** Taste 6 wines specially chosen and presented by our team's sommelier. Tickets cost £20 and are limited so please be quick. They can be bought by texting 07449771573 or 07596955869 speak to any member of the social group.

ANNUAL DAY FOR LIFE - Sunday 16th June 2024

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. In England & Wales, Scotland and Ireland, the Day for Life is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. This year it falls on Sunday 16th June. The theme is *The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life.*

There has been much discussion in the media recently about 'assisted suicide', whereby people who feel they are overburdened by suffering will be facilitated in bringing their lives to a premature end by a change in legislation. The Catholic Church opposes this.

As Catholics, along with many people of other faiths and none, we share a different vision about what it is to be fully human, especially when we are suffering and approaching death in the hope of eternal life. People who are coming towards the end of their lives can feel vulnerable, and recent research shows that many consider themselves a burden on their loved ones and wider society. Jesus shows us that life always has dignity and that there is no such thing as a useless life. We are called to defend this gift of life to its natural end and to protect vulnerable citizens from a culture that could pressure them into assisted suicide. We support people with the companionship of a listening ear, appropriate treatment, and the best of care, so that their last days can be times of grace, intimacy and love.

Jesus did not send the sick away. Our Lady remained at the foot of the Cross to the very end as Her Son, Jesus, died. Mary is the model of compassionate presence and prayer whom we are called to imitate. People close to death and their loved ones, often go through similar darkness and pain but can come to a more complete acceptance and find peace in those treasured last moments accompanied by spiritual care. *Bishop John Sherrington, Bishop Kevin Doran, and Bishop John Keenan.*

ST. MARGARET NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE 2024

You are invited to gather in faith and thanksgiving to celebrate one of Scotland's patron saints in Dunfermline on **Sunday 23rd June 2024.** An ecumenical prayer service at the tomb of St Margaret at Dunfermline Abbey will begin at 12:30 p.m. The procession to St Margaret's Memorial Church takes place from the Glen Gates in Bridge Street making it's way to the Church. This will begin at 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass will then follow at 3:00 p.m. All welcome to attend.