

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
Sunday 1st December <i>First Sunday of Advent (C)</i> <i>(Preface of Advent I;</i> <i>Euch. Prayer III)</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	Holy Souls
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	People of the Parish
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Veronica Reid (RIP)
Monday 2nd December	NO MASS CELEBRATED TODAY			
Tuesday 3rd December <i>St. Francis Xavier, Priest</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Ian Syme (RIP)
Wednesday 4th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	10 a.m.	St. Serf's Hall	Mass	Gerard Grattan (Anniv.)
Thursday 5th November <i>Advent Feria</i>	6.30 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Donor's Intention
Friday 6th December <i>St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Margaret McTaggart (RIP)
Saturday 7th December <i>St. Ambrose, Bishop</i>	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	People of the Parish
Sunday 8th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent (C)</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	Margaret McTaggart (RIP)
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	Elma Kelly (RIP)

<p><u>Sacrament of Confession this week</u> In St. Serf's on request. Thursday in St. Mungo's - 6 p.m. to 6.25 p.m. Friday in St. Mungo's after 10 a.m. Mass Saturday in St. Mungo's - 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.</p> <p><u>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</u> No exposition in St. Serf's No exposition in St. Mungo's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Mungo's Prayer Group</u> Tuesday 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in St. Mungo's Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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 1st December 2024 - First Sunday of Advent - Year C



Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world. © Loyola Press

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN OUR PARISHES

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve
10 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's followed by confessions until 11 a.m.
7.30 p.m. Carols in St. Mungo's
8 p.m. First Mass of Christmas in St. Mungo's

Wednesday 25th December
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
12 a.m. Midnight Mass in St. Mungo's
9.30 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's
11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Serf's

IN YOUR PRAYERS....

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

Jane Fentiman, Veronica McCluskey, Ann Gray, Jacqui Cadwallender, Richard Donald, Maureen Malkiewicz, Matthew Kelly, Brian Bell, Susan Dyball, Lewis McArthur, Eden Smyth, John Ferguson. Angie Mortimer-Farthing, Jean Rennie, John Mooney, Fr Martin Smith, Roy Drysdale, Ivan Wilkin, Chloe Walmsley
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:

Fr. Edmund Purcell, Neil Fraser, Marie Duffy, Ian Sword, Joseph Gallagher, Beatrice McBride, Jean Hepburn, Gerard Grattan.
Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

LAST WEEK'S INCOME

St. Mungo's		St. Serf's	
Offertory	£567.83	Offertory	£238.30
Standing Orders	£315.50	Standing Orders	
Hall Donation	£40	Donation for Sound System	£100
Building Fund	£220		
Repository	£60		
Sunday Missals	£540		
TOTAL	£1743.33	TOTAL	£338.30

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

There will be a special collection this weekend for the Poor Mission Fund, which is used to assist those parishes in the diocese who are unable to support themselves financially.

Death of Bishop Stephen's mother

Bishop Stephen will offer a Requiem Mass for his mother's one month anniversary on Wednesday 4th December at 1 p.m. in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee.

Dolly Mixtures Christmas Concert

Christmas Afternoon Tea with entertainment from the Dolly Mixtures. **Sunday 8th December at 2 p.m.** in St. Mungo's Church Hall. Tickets £4 on sale this weekend.

Children's Christmas Movie Afternoon

This will take place on **Sunday 15th December at 2 p.m.** in St. Mungo's Church hall. Bring a cushion and a blanket. It's a free, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Juice and popcorn provided for kids/tea and mince pie for the adults.

Advent Confessions

During this season of preparation, there will be additional times for confession in both parishes. These times will be posted in the newsletter. **On Tuesday 17th December in St. Mungo's, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.** in St. Mungo's there will be the opportunity for confession with a visiting priest. During this time there will also be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sunday Missals

I have ordered extra Sunday Missals and these are now available to buy in the repository priced £20.

Diocesan Advent Retreat Day

There will be a Diocesan Advent Retreat Day at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, St Mary's Forebank Church Hall, Forebank Road, Dundee, DD1 2PB on Saturday 7th December from 10am until 3pm. The keynote address will be given by Bishop Andrew McKenzie. Come and enjoy an Advent day with us. Please bring a packed lunch. Sign up for a place at StAndrew@dunkelddioocese.org.uk or leave a message on 01382 275539.

St. Mungo's Primary Parent Community Christmas Fayre

There will be a Christmas Fayre on Friday 6th December from 5pm-7pm. This will be in the school, with entry through the St Mungo's door on Lime Tree Walk.

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one to help decorate our churches at Christmas, please hand them in over the weekend of 21st/22nd December.

Advent Project

This Advent we will be raising funds for the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT), in particular Group 140 from our diocese. HCPT assists thousands of disabled and disadvantaged youngsters to visit Lourdes every Easter. This year Group 140 hope to take out 8 children from our diocese to Lourdes for a pilgrimage holiday. The aim is to give the children a safe, fun and meaningful holiday - and for some a life changing experience. Each child's fare is **£1085**, so hopefully we can help raise funds to help towards the cost of these fares.



Online retreats for Advent

For those who might want to do something different this Advent there are several online retreat that you might be interested in. They can be carried out at a time and place of your choosing, to help you through the expectant waiting of the coming of Christ. Each session lasts around 20 minutes and can be found on the "Pray as you Go" app, which can be downloaded to your electronic device from the app store or by typing <https://pray-as-you-go.org/discover> into your search engine.

Advent Rorate Mass

Continuing our now annual tradition, there will be a candlelit Mass in honour of Our Lady on **Thursday 19th December at 6.30 p.m.** in St. Mungo's. Please try to come along and experience this beautiful way of preparing for Christmas.

St. Mungo's sound system

Last week I invited Killian, the sound engineer, who installed the new sound system in St. Serf's, to take a look at the one in St. Mungo's. He has suggested a few changes/additions to make it better. Once again he is very generously giving us a lot of the hardware free of charge and only charging us for his time and a discounted price for any additional equipment.