

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
Sunday 23rd March <i>Third Sunday of Lent (C)</i> <i>Preface of Lent III; EPIII</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>Bishop Andrew's Intentions</i>
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Mary Gallagher (Anniversary)</i>
Monday 24th March	NO MASS CELEBRATED TODAY			
Tuesday 25th March <i>Solemnity of the Annunciation</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Funeral Mass for Agnes Smith <i>(celebrated by Fr Mike Freyne MHM)</i>	
Wednesday 26th March	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Donor's Intention</i>
Thursday 27th March	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Edward Small (Anniversary)</i>
Friday 28th March	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>John Boyle (Anniversary)</i>
Saturday 29th March	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Sunday 30th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)</i> <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Private Intention</i>

Sacrament of Confession this week
 Wednesday in St. Serf's after 10 a.m. Mass
 Friday in St. Mungo's after 10am Mass
 Saturday in St. Mungo's 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
 On request in both parishes

St. Mungo's Prayer Group
 Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Teas/coffees
 No teas this week in St. Serf's
 In St. Mungo's after 10 a.m. Mass on Tuesday

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 23rd March 2025 - Third Sunday of Lent (C)*



Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us. This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us. © Loyola Press

WELCOME!

This weekend, we welcome to our parishes, Bishop Andrew McKenzie, as he makes his first pastoral visit. The bishop will be saying all the Masses this weekend. **At the bishop's request Holy Communion in St. Mungo's won't be distributed at the altar rails. Instead he asks that you process forward in two lines to the middle of the sanctuary.**



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, Fr Martin Smith, Chloe Walmsley, Susan Malcolm, Winnie Solomon, Pope Francis
Our Lady, Health of the sick, pray for them!

We pray for those who have died recently:

Roy Finlayson, James Delaney

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Bishop Robert Fraser, Mgr. Hugh McNally, Canon John Malloy, Canon Peter McKearney, Canon John O'Farrell, Father Edward Dempsey, Edward (Eddie) Small, Louie Delaney, Harry Dunion, Daniel Gallagher
Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

PARISH INCOME

St. Mungo's		St. Serf's	
Offertory	£640.38	Offertory	£285.50
Standing Orders	£315.50	Lent Project	£17.45
Building Fund	£30		
Hall Income	£36		
Lent Project	£203.87		
TOTAL	£1225.50	TOTAL	£302.97

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

Next weekend there will be the annual collection for Papal and Episcopal Charities (SCIAF)

New sets of Offertory Envelopes will be available from this weekend. If you would like to give your weekly offering by Standing Order, forms will also be available this weekend too. Similarly, if you haven't already signed up for Gift Aid, please think about doing so. If you pay income tax, then you are eligible to take part. For every £1 we can reclaim 25p. If you have previously signed up for Gift Aid, and no longer pay income tax, please let us know so we can remove your name from the system.

KSC Easter Raffle

Don't miss the Knights of St. Columba Grand Easter Raffle. Magnificent prizes including a luxury hamper, £50 shopping voucher and luxury Easter egg. Tickets on sale this weekend, £1

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Stations of the Cross

St. Mungo's: Sundays at 4 p.m.
St. Serf's: Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament **St. Mungo's: No adoration this Tuesday**
Friday 9.15 a.m. to 9.45 a.m.

SACRED TRIDUUM SERVICE TIMES 2025

Thursday 17th April – Holy Thursday

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

Friday 18th April – Good Friday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

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 p.m. in St. Serf's

Saturday 19th April – Holy Saturday

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10am in St. Mungo's
Blessing of Polish Food Baskets at 12 noon in St. Mungo's
Easter Vigil at 8.30 p.m. in St. Mungo's

Sunday 20th April – Easter Sunday

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

Lenten Penance Service

On **Thursday 10th April from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.** in St. Mungo's there will be an extra opportunity for confession before Easter with a visiting priest. During this time there will also be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Jubilee Hymn

To mark the Jubilee (Holy) Year, a special hymn was composed and we will be learning it over the next couple of weeks in St. Mungo's. The choir will initially sing the verses and the congregation will sing the chorus which is below. You can listen to the hymn on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/7uXO8lUcEZI>

Refrain
C7 F Am7 Dm C/F B♭ Gm C C7

Like a flame my hope is burn - ing, may my song a - rise to you: Source of

F/A Em A Dm B♭ F/A Gm C7 F

life that has no end - ing, on life's path I trust in you.



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross with St. Mungo's Primary

The children from St. Mungo's Primary will lead us in the Stations of the Cross on Friday afternoon at 1.30 p.m. in the church. Please come along and participate if you are free.