

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
Sunday 30th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)</i> <i>Laetare Sunday</i> <i>Preface of Lent IV; EPIII</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>Harry Dunion (Anniversary)</i>
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Monday 31st March	NO MASS CELEBRATED TODAY			
Tuesday 1st April	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>James Delaney (RIP)</i>
Wednesday 2nd April	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Agnes Smith (RIP)</i>
Thursday 3rd April	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	End of term Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (AS)</i>
Friday 4th April	NO MASS CELEBRATED TODAY			
Saturday 5th April	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>Roy Finlayson (RIP)</i>
Sunday 6th April <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)</i> <i>Passiontide begins</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (MMB)</i>

Sacrament of Confession this week
 Wednesday in St. Serf's after 10 a.m. Mass
 No confessions this Friday
 Saturday in St. Mungo's 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

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

Stations of the Cross
 Sunday at 4 p.m. in St. Mungo's
 Wednesday at 9.30 a.m. in St. Serf's

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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Parish Safeguarding co-ordinators: Margaret Fern and Jean Gilbert
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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 30th March 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)
 Laetare Sunday*



In today's First Reading, God forgives "the reproach" of the generations who grumbled against Him after the Exodus. On the threshold of the promised land, Israel can with a clean heart celebrate the Passover, the feast of God's firstborn son (see Joshua 5:6-7; Exodus 4:22; 12:12-13). Reconciliation is also at the heart of the story Jesus tells in today's Gospel. The story of the Prodigal Son is the story of Israel and of the human race. But it is also the story of every believer.

In Baptism, we're given a divine birth right, made "a new creation," as Paul puts it in today's second reading. But when we sin, we're like the Prodigal Son, quitting our Father's house, squandering our inheritance in trying to live without Him. Lost in sin, we cut ourselves off from the grace of sonship lavished upon us in Baptism. It is still possible for us to come to our senses, make our way back to the Father, as the prodigal does.

But only He can remove the reproach and restore the divine sonship we have spurned. Only He can free us from the slavery to sin that causes us—like the Prodigal Son—to see God not as our Father but as our master, One we serve as slaves. God wants not slaves but children. Like the father in today's Gospel, He longs to call each of us "My son," to share His life with us, to tell us: "Everything I have is yours."

The Father's words of longing and compassion still come to His prodigal children in the Sacrament of Penance. This is part of what Paul today calls "the ministry of reconciliation" entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and the Church. Reconciled like Israel, we take our place at the table of the Eucharist, the homecoming banquet the Father calls for His lost sons, the new Passover we celebrate this side of heaven. We taste the goodness of the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm, rejoicing that we who were dead are found alive again.

Laetare Sunday

This Sunday is also referred to as Laetare Sunday. The name comes from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon for Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" — "Rejoice, Jerusalem". The fourth Sunday marks the half-way point of the Lenten season, even though the Thursday before Laetare Sunday is the actual middle day of Lent. Signs of joy are allowed on this day, expressing our belief in the hope of the resurrection and to inspire us as we continue our Lenten commitments to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Symbolizing joy, rose-coloured Mass vestments may be worn instead of purple, to indicate the contrast between Laetare and the other Sundays of Lent. The Fourth Sunday of Lent was also previously observed as Mothering Sunday, in reference to Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, where the faithful are called "sons and daughters of God". Families visited the church where they were baptized, or made offerings to the cathedral, or mother-church, on this Sunday.

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:

Nessie Small (*Funeral Mass on Friday 11th April at 10am in St. Mungo's*)

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Canon Andrew McKinley, Canon Robert Russell, Nicholas (Nick) Blake, Frank Affa, Alan Ferguson, Andrew Dobbin, Father Gerry Mulligan CSsR, Donald Campbell, Alan McDonald

Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

PARISH INCOME

St. Mungo's		St. Serf's	
Offertory	£653.07	Offertory	£243.16
Standing Orders	£315.50	Lent Project	£25
Building Fund	£10		
Lent Project	£194.01		
TOTAL	£1172.58	TOTAL	£268.16

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

This 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.

Easter Treasure Hunt

There will be an Easter Treasure Hunt in the church hall on Easter Sunday (20th April) after the 9.30 a.m. Mass, everyone is welcome and we would really love if people could join us for a fun Easter celebration. There will also be tea and toast available as well.

First Reconciliation

On Tuesday evening of this week, we celebrate First Reconciliation with the children from St. Mungo's Primary and parish. Please keep the children in your prayers as they prepare for this important stage in their faith journey.

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.

Job Vacancy: Office Administrator – Diocesan Curial Office, Dundee

The Diocese of Dunkeld is seeking to appoint an Office Administrator to assist in the day to day running of the Diocesan Curial Offices. Part of this role will be PA to the Bishop. Salary: £28-£30k (dependent on experience) Hours: 37.5 hours per week (five days). The post requires someone who is competent and skilled in administrative duties, confident in using IT systems, well organised, flexible and self-motivated with excellent interpersonal and communication skills whilst understanding the need for confidentiality. For further information, please contact the Diocese at: chancellor@dunkelldioocese.org.uk or 01382 225453. Applications for this post will close on Monday 14th April 2025.

Parish Conversations in the Spirit

My thanks to those parishioners who attended the presentation from Mgr. Aldo last Wednesday. Many have said that they found it very informative and interesting. Following on from the recent gathering of the priests of the diocese at Kinnoull with Bishop Andrew, he has now written to the priests saying:

*I would like to propose a diocesan initiative based around Conversations in the Spirit. I propose that each parish forms a group or groups which will engage for three sessions of Conversations in the Spirit. Materials will be provided for each session. Sessions should take place during Eastertide with a brief report being submitted to the diocese by Pentecost. These sessions will focus on the question, **What is the Holy Spirit asking of the Church in the Diocese of Dunkeld?***

Tea and Toast Sunday

A reminder that there will be Tea and Toast after 9.30 a.m. Mass this Sunday in St. Mungo's Hall. Please come along and get to know your fellow parishioners!

Happy Mother's Day

We wish a happy Mother's Day to all mother's in the parishes.

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

Please make an effort to attend all of the Sacred Triduum services if possible, as they are one continuous celebration spread over three days!