

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
Sunday 24th August <i>Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)</i> <i>Preface of Sunday VIII EP III</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Jane Fentiman RIP</i>
Monday 25th August	NO MASS TODAY			
Tuesday 26th August	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	
Wednesday 27th August <i>Memorial of St. Monica</i>	10 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	
Thursday 28th August <i>Memorial of St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	
Friday 29th August <i>Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	
Saturday 30th August	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	
Sunday 31st August <i>Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	

St. Mungo's Prayer Group
Tuesday 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in St. Mungo's Hall

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

Teas/coffees
Tuesday after 10am Mass in St. Mungo's
Wednesday after 10am Mass in St. Serf's
Last Sunday of the month after 9.30 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's Hall

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 24th August 2025—Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)*



Today's Gospel reading is the third of three parables in chapter 13 that deal with the theme of the unexpected reversals brought by the Kingdom of God. The other two parables are about the tiny mustard seed that grows into a large tree and the small amount of yeast that makes a large batch of dough rise. All three are about the few and the many and the Kingdom of God.

As this parable opens, Luke reminds us that Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem. This journey, this exodus as Luke refers to it, makes up the entire middle of the Gospel. He is teaching as he goes. A question from the crowd gives Jesus the chance to make a prophetic statement. Luke uses this question device a number of times in his Gospel. A few weeks ago, the question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" led to the parable of the Good Samaritan. The question about will only a few be saved uses typical Christian language about salvation but also expresses the Jewish concern about whether everyone who calls himself a Jew is actually faithful to the covenant. This was a concern of the Pharisees.

Jesus answers that they must strive in the time remaining to enter through the narrow door because many will be trying to get in but won't be strong enough. He then moves to a parable about another door. (The translation says "gate" then "door," but the same Greek word is used.) Once all those entering the master's house are in and he locks the door, there will be no way for others to get in. Those left outside may knock, but the master will say he doesn't know them. Unlike the Gospel reading from a few weeks ago where Jesus was teaching about prayer, and we were told to knock and the door would be opened, in this parable, the master will not open and say he does not know us. People from the north, south, east, and west will take our place inside. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets will take our place in the Kingdom of God. Those who do not make it through the narrow door will be cast out to where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.

The image of the door is replaced in the final verses of the parable with the image of the heavenly banquet. Two passages from the Book of Isaiah influence the conclusion. Isaiah 43:5-6 speaks of God bringing Israel's descendants back from the east and from the west, the north and the south. And Isaiah 25:6 speaks of the Lord providing a feast of rich foods and choice wines for all peoples on his holy mountain. The answer to the question if only a few will be saved is no. In the end, many will be saved, but many who thought they would be saved will not be saved. The parable is a prophetic warning to repentance in order to enter the kingdom. © Loyola Press

IN YOUR PRAYERS....

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

Veronica McCluskey, Ann Gray, Richard Donald, Eden Smyth, Maureen Malkiewicz, Matthew Kelly, Brian Bell, Susan Dyball, Lewis McArthur, John Ferguson, Angie Mortimer-Farthing, Fr Martin Smith, Chloe Walmsley, Susan Malcolm, Andrea McGregor, Fr Malcolm Hutchison, Maria Benei, Anne McEvoy, Mary Alexander, Jeanette Mournian

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

We pray for those who have died recently:

Jane Fentiman (*Funeral Mass in St. Serf's on Wednesday 3rd September at 10am*)

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Mgr. Michael Regan, Fr. James Wallace, Charlotte McAviney, Jessie Millar, William Stone, Cathie Walls, Wyn Clarkin.

Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

PARISH INCOME

St. Mungo's		St. Serf's	
Offertory	£684.69	Offertory	£237.40
Standing Orders	£315.50	Votive Candles	£220.90
Building Fund	£45		
Repository	£40		
TOTAL	£1085.19	TOTAL	£458.80

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy takes place in St. Mungo's every Sunday and is open to all primary school children in primaries 1 to 4. Before Mass, children are invited to sit in the front pew facing Our Lady's statue. During the Liturgy of the Word, they will take part in a child friendly liturgy of readings, prayers and activities.

National Pilgrimage to Whithorn

While there was a strong tradition of pilgrimage to the burial place of St Ninian in Whithorn before the Reformation, only in 1924 was the pilgrimage resumed in its modern form. The National Pilgrimage to Whithorn in honour of St Ninian will take place on **Sunday 31st August**. Mass at St Ninian's Cave will be celebrated at 4 pm by Bishop Frank Dougan and Mass will be celebrated in the parish church of St Martin and St Ninian at 4.45 pm (for those unable to walk to the beach).

National Pilgrimage to Carfin

The National Pilgrimage at the National Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes, Carfin, will take place on **Sunday 7th September**. As we are in the midst of the Jubilee Year the theme for this year's Pilgrimage will be Pilgrims of Hope. Holy Mass will be celebrated at the Shrine at 3.15 pm, the main Celebrant and Preacher being the Most Rev. Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, who is celebrating his 40th Anniversary as a priest this year.

Sacramental Preparation for Children

If there are any families in the parishes who have children at non-Catholic schools and they would like them to be prepared for First Confession and First Holy Communion (P4) or Confirmation (P7) during the coming year, please email me to let me know.

The Beginning Experience

The Beginning Experience are holding a weekend for those who find themselves suffering bereavement through divorce, separation or widowhood. The weekend will take place from **26th - 28th September 2025** at the Conforti Centre, Coatbridge. For details contact Maggie on 01389 751677 or Email: beginningexperiencescotland2@gmail.com Please register before 12th September.

Concert in Memory of St. John Paul II

A concert of classical and religious music dedicated to the memory of St. John Paul II will be taking place in St. Mungo's Church on **Saturday 18th October at 1 p.m.** It will feature several Polish musicians and singers. Tickets will be on this weekend (Adults £15/ Children £7)

Venerable Margaret Sinclair Pilgrimage

The Centenary Pilgrimage to pray for the Beatification of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair will take place on **Sunday 21st September** from 12:30-6:00pm at St Patrick's Church, Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1NA. 12.30pm-1.30pm Refreshments & sale of candles/goods; 1:30pm-2:30pm Holy Hour; 3:00-4:00pm Reflection; 4:30pm Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop Leo Cushley. Confessions available all afternoon.

St. Mungo's Choir

Rehearsals will restart after the summer break on **Thursday 12th September at 7.15 p.m.** in the church. New and existing members will be made very welcome.

The RCIA: A Journey of Faith

Since Jesus invited His first followers to, "Come, follow me", the image of journey has been used to describe Christian discipleship. For each of us faith is a journey marked with moments of conversion along the way...we move from unbelief to initial faith, from sin to repentance, from painful isolation to the joyful experience of a loving community, from fear to love.

Faith, conversion, repentance, celebration and community – five basic elements that are present in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA provides a setting where the journey of faith and moments of conversion can be celebrated within the local Church community. The purpose of the RCIA is literally "the making of Christians", for as Tertullian in the 4th century wrote "Christians are made, not born." *If you or you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a Catholic, please let me know on the parish email. This year's RCIA sessions will hopefully begin in a couple of weeks time.*

Parish Accounts

There are copies of a summary of the accounts for both parishes for those who wish to take one. Thanks to those who help with the counting of the weekly collections and Gift Aid administration.