

**Welcome to the Parishes of  
St. Mungo's, Alloa and St. Serf's, High Valleyfield  
Sunday 30th November 2025 - First Sunday of Advent - Year A**



Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It 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. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful.

As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared. © *Loyola Press*

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**CHRISTMAS MASSES IN OUR PARISHES**

**Wednesday 24th December -**

**Christmas Eve**

**7.30 p.m. Carols in St. Mungo's**

**8 p.m. First Mass of Christmas in  
St. Mungo's**

**Thursday 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:**

Veronica McCluskey, Ann Gray, Richard Donald, Eden Smyth, Maureen Malkiewicz,  
Matthew Kelly, Brian Bell, Susan Dyball, Lewis McArthur, John Ferguson, Maria Benei  
Angie Mortimer-Farthing, Fr Martin Smith, Susan Malcolm, Andrea McGregor,  
Fr Malcolm Hutchison, Anne McEvoy, Mary Alexander, Jeanette Mournian,  
Maureen Gianandrea, Tony Reynolds  
*Our Lady, Health of the sick, pray for them!*

**We pray for those who have died recently:**

Maureen Taylor, Richard Banks

**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

<b>St. Mungo's</b>		<b>St. Serf's</b>	
<b>Offertory</b>	£483.10	<b>Offertory</b>	£211.53
<b>Standing Orders</b>	£315.50		
<b>Building Fund</b>	£30		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£828.60</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£211.53</b>

*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.*

### 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 **Wednesday 17th December in St. Mungo's, from 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.

### Advent Rorate Mass

Continuing our now annual tradition, there will be a candlelit Mass in honour of Our Lady on **Thursday 18th December at 6.30 p.m.** in St. Mungo's. Please try to come along and experience this beautiful way of preparing for Christmas.

### 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.**

### Afternoon of Christmas Music

Tickets will be on sale this weekend for an Afternoon of Christmas Music with Craig and Andrea. This will take place on **Sunday 7th December at 2 p.m.** in St. Mungo's Church Hall. Tickets cost £3 which includes tea/coffee, a mince pie and free entry into a festive raffle.



### Advent Project

This Advent we will be once again 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 roughly £1300, so hopefully we can help raise funds to help towards the cost of these fares. **There will be**

**baskets/buckets for your donations in both churches from next weekend.**

### 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://prayasyougo.org/category/advent-and-lent-25> into your search engine.

### New Year's Family Bash 2026

The social events team have been putting together our 2026 calendar and we have decided that next year we would love to host a New Year's Eve bash! We plan on having live entertainment, a buffet and lots of fun to bring in 2027! We understand that this is very early but we would love to be prepared and if you would keep us in mind when making your plans for next year. Further to this we will share our 2026 events calendar with the parish in the coming weeks!

### Tea and Toast

There will be tea and toast served in St. Mungo's Hall this Sunday morning after Mass. Come along and have a cuppa and blether with fellow parishioners.

### Annual Diocesan Safeguarding Statement

The annual safeguarding statement from Bishop Andrew can be found on the parish Facebook page and the diocesan website. There are a small number of paper copies in both churches for those who would like one.

### Solemnity of St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland—Monday 1st December

There will be an additional Mass on Monday of this week, to mark St. Andrew's Day.

**Mass will be in St. Mungo's at 10 a.m.**

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

There will be Mass to mark this feast day of Our Lady in St. Mungo's on **Monday 8th**

**December at 10 a.m.** St. Mungo's Primary will join us for Mass.

### Knight of St. Columba Christmas Raffle

The Knights of St Columba Council 636 are delighted to announce their 2025 Grand Christmas Raffle. Tickets (£1) on sale from Saturday 29th November. First prize: Christmas hamper worth £100; second prize: £50 voucher; third prize £25 voucher. The draw will take place after Sunday Mass on 21st December in St Mungo's Hall. Best of luck!

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
<b>Sunday 30th December</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent (A)</i> <i>(Preface of Advent I; EP III)</i>	<b>6 p.m.</b> <b>(Sat)</b>	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>Patrick McCluskey (RIP)</i>
	<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Ian Ramage (Anniversary)</i>
	<b>11.30 a.m.</b>	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Monday 1st December</b> <i>Solemnity of St. Andrew, Apostle</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>St. Mungo's</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<i>Donor's Intention (CS)</i>
<b>Tuesday 2nd December</b> <i>Advent Feria</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (KP)</i>
<b>Wednesday 3rd December</b> <i>St. Francis Xavier, Priest (Mem.)</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>St. Serf's Hall</b>	Mass	<i>Gerard Grattan (Anniversary)</i>
<b>Thursday 4th November</b> <i>Advent Feria</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Friday 5th December</b> <i>Advent Feria</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (NF)</i>
<b>Saturday 6th December</b> <i>Advent Feria</i>	<b>6 p.m.</b>	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sunday 7th December</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent (A)</i>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Maureen Taylor (RIP)</i>
	<b>11.30 a.m.</b>	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Rachelle Milner (RIP)</i>

**Sacrament of Confession this week**

In St. Serf's on request  
Friday in St. Mungo's after 10 a.m. Mass  
Saturday in St. Mungo's 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Friday in St. Mungo's 9.15 a.m. to 9.45 a.m.**

**St. Mungo's Prayer Group**

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

**Teas/coffees**

**Teas will resume in St. Mungo's in the New Year.**

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

**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  
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