

***Welcome to the Parishes of  
St. Mungo's, Alloa and St. Serf's, High Valleyfield  
Sunday 14th December 2025 - Third Sunday of Advent - Year A***

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

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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**

**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**



***Please consider inviting someone who has been  
away from the church to one of our Christmas  
Masses.***

### 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, Frank Carrie, Ann Watson  
*Our Lady, Health of the sick, pray for them!*

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

Gerard Rooney

**We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:**

Canon Augustine Klein, Father Edward Durkin, Canon John Robertson,  
Eleanor McMonagle, Kevin Cole, Hugh McMillan, Ann McCrossan, Mae Brown,  
Janice Lockhart, Jim Freeman, Connie Faccenda, Margaret Rich, Maureen O'Keene,  
John Mooney

*Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen*

### LAST WEEK'S INCOME

St. Mungo's		St. Serf's	
Offertory	£710.05	Offertory	£221.60
Standing Orders	£315.50	Advent Project	£73.28
Advent Project	344.30	Repository	£55
Building Fund	£20		
Votive Candles	£152.30		
Hall Income	£52		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1729.15</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£349.88</b>

*Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.*

### 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.

### Thank-You

A huge thank you to our parish social group for a wonderful Christmas musical afternoon last Sunday. Thanks to all those who supported the event and I'm sure had a lovely Christmassy afternoon. Thanks also to Craig and Andrea for entertaining everyone.

### Carol Service

Fr Andrew and the parishioners of St. John Vianney's invite you to join them this Sunday evening for a Christmas Carol Service. It will take place at 7.30 p.m. in St. John Vianney's Church, East Stirling Street, Alva. Afterwards there will be mulled wine and mince pies in the hall.

### 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 during Advent/Christmas**



Life-Changing Pilgrimage Holidays  
**hcpt**

### 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 after Masses this weekend 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!

### Children's Christmas Movie Afternoon

This will take place on **Sunday 21st December at 2 p.m.** in St. Mungo's Church hall. Bring a cushion and a blanket. It's free, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments will be provided.

### 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 **20th/21st December**.

### Advent Confessions

#### Wednesday 17th December

**6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in St. Mungo's with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
*(Fr Andrew Marshall will help hear confessions)*

#### Friday 19th December

**After 10 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's**

#### Saturday 20th December

**5 p.m. to 5.45 p.m. in St. Mungo's**

#### Sunday 21st December

**9 a.m. to 9.25 a.m. in St. Mungo's**

**After 11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Serf's**

*(Fr Andrew Marshall will say Mass and hear confessions at St. Serf's)*

#### Tuesday 23rd December

**After 10 a.m. Mass until 11 a.m. in St. Mungo's**

Repentant  
Reconciled  
Renewed



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	LITURGY	INTENTION
<b>Sunday 14th December</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent (A)</i> <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>Gerard Rooney (RIP)</i>
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (CT)</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Monday 15th December</b>	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>			
<b>Tuesday 16th December</b> <i>Advent Feria</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Wednesday 17th December</b> <i>Advent Feria by date</i>	10 a.m.	<b>St. Serf's Primary</b>	<b>End of term Mass</b>	<i>Private Intention</i>
<b>Thursday 18th November</b> <i>Advent Feria by date</i>	6.30 p.m.	<b>St. Mungo's</b>	<b>Rorate</b>	<i>Donor's Intention (FT)</i>
<b>Friday 19th December</b> <i>Advent Feria by date</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	<b>End of term Mass</b>	<i>Marta Balogova (RIP)</i>
<b>Saturday 20th December</b> <i>Advent Feria by date</i>	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sunday 21st December</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (BM)</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Hugh McMillan (Anniversary)</i>

**Sacrament of Confession**

See information inside

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Will resume in the New Year**

**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 both parishes in the New Year!**

**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*