

*Welcome to the Parishes of
St. Mungo's, Alloa and St. Serf's, High Valleyfield
Sunday 21st December 2025 - 4th Sunday of Advent - Year A
Next Sunday: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (A)*

SERVICES IN OUR PARISHES OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS
(NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK, SO KEEP HOLD OF THIS ONE!)

Saturday 20th December

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

6 p.m. Vigil Mass in St. Mungo's (*People of the Parish*)

Sunday 21st December *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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

9.30 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's (*Donor's Intention BM*)

11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Serf's (*Hugh McMillan, Anniversary*) followed by confessions

Monday 22nd December

NO MASS

Tuesday 23rd December

10 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's followed by confessions until 11 a.m.

Wednesday 24th December

NO MORNING MASS

7.30 p.m. Carols 8 p.m. First Mass of Christmas St. Mungo's (*People of the Parish*)

Thursday 25th December *Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord*

12 a.m. Midnight Mass St. Mungo's (*Fr Michael's Intentions*)

9.30 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's (*Holy Souls*)

11.30 a.m. in St. Serf's (*Donor's Intention FT*)

Friday 26th December *Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr*

NO MASS TODAY

Saturday 27th December

5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Confessions in St. Mungo's

6 p.m. Vigil Mass of Sunday in St. Mungo's (*Edward Hill, Anniversary*)

Sunday 28th December *Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

9.30 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's (*People of the Parish*)

11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Serf's (*Nessie & Jimmy McMillan, Anniversaries*)

Monday 29th December

NO MASS TODAY

Tuesday 30th December

10 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's (*Tony Kelly, Anniversary*)

Wednesday 31st December

10 a.m. Mass in St. Serf's (*Colin Mournian, Anniversary*)

6 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Mungo's

6.30 p.m. Rosary and Benediction in St. Mungo's

Thursday 1st January

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)

11 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's (*Peace in our world*)

Friday 2nd January

Memorial of Ss. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen

12 noon Mass in St. Mungo's

Saturday 3rd January

5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. confessions

6 p.m. Vigil Mass in St. Mungo's (*Holy Souls*)

Sunday 4th January

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

9.30 a.m. Mass in St. Mungo's (*People of the Parish*)

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

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18). The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfilment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]." Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

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St. Mungo's Prayer Group

The prayer group will next meet on Tuesday 13th January 2026

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
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:

Patrick McRobert, Angie Mortimer-Farthing

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Pope Benedict XVI, Father James McCruden, Maria Grattan, Ann Delaney,
Colin Mournian, Rose McNally, Tony Kelly, Michael Dowd, John Joseph Rafferty,
Kathleen Coutts, Rose Kerr, Anne McCrossan, William Wyant, Lita Wilson,
Peter Togneri, Roberta Caine, Jean Quinn, Nessie and Jimmy McMillan,
Baby Anthony Maria Nguyen.

Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

LAST WEEK'S INCOME

St. Mungo's		St. Serf's	
Offertory	£493.90	Offertory	£392.60
Standing Orders	£315.50	Standing Orders	
Building Fund	£45	Advent Project	£45.11
Advent Project	£158.84	Hall	£50
TOTAL	£1013.24	TOTAL	£487.71

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

There will be a special collection the weekend of 3rd/4th January for Justice & Peace Scotland

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**

Thank-You!

The Gate Foodbank in Alloa would like to take this opportunity to thank the parishioners of St. Mungo's for the generous donations of food, toiletries and cash during the last year. These are all very much appreciated.

Children's Liturgy

On Christmas Day, the Children's Liturgy group will help in the celebration of the morning Mass. For this Sunday can the children please stay after mass for a 5 minute practise. Many thanks.

Knights 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!

Knights of St. Columba 200 Club

The Knights of St. Columba's mission is to support the Catholic Church and its members, working for the spiritual and material good of all through Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, by spreading the Gospel, helping young people grow in faith, and promoting the moral and social welfare of their country, all while serving God and their communities.

With this in mind and with an emphasis in this instance firmly on charity, we are delighted to bring back the popular 200 Club. More information about this will be available this weekend.

Dear Parishioners,

This Season is one of hope, as our Saviour comes into the world as one of us. It is a time of memories: happy and sad. It is a time to reflect and give thanks. Yet the Season, as we experience it in our time, is one often fraught with worry and pressures and strain, all of which seems so far removed from the quietness, peace, and calm of the scene depicted on our Christmas cards: the scene of the manger and the Christ-Child under the still, starry sky. I pray that you can spend sometime during these days of Christmas, to reflect on the real reason why we celebrate. To remember that first Christmas morning, when the birth of a tiny baby changed our world forever. Christmas is a season and not just one day, and we celebrate it liturgically until Monday 12th January, when the liturgy returns to Ordinary Time.

May the Christ-Child bring light, warmth, and hope into every heart and home during this Season, and may you know the joy and power of His blessing in your lives now and always, and may He grant you every good gift; good health and prosperity for 2026.

God bless,

Fr Michael



PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

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St. Mungo's Hall Bookings: Cathie Ramage

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Safeguarding co-ordinators: Margaret Fern and Jean Gilbert **Email:** stmungopsc@dunkelddioocese.org.uk

Parish SVDP

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