

**Welcome to the Parishes of
St. Mungo's, Alloa and St. Serf's, High Valleyfield
Sunday 7th December 2025 - Second Sunday of Advent - Year A**



**PRE
PARE
THE
WAY
FOR
THE
LORD,**

**SMOOTHEN
THE PATH
FOR OUR GOD**

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord. © Loyola Press

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:

Sheila Lothian (Dundee)

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Canon Augustine Klein, Canon John Robertson, Jean Mulholland,
John McGregor, Susan Watson, Mary Galloway.

Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

LAST WEEK'S INCOME

St. Mungo's		St. Serf's	
Offertory	£625.22	Offertory	£211.53
Standing Orders	£315.50	Poor Mission Fund	£102.81
Poor Mission Fund	£393.44	Votive Candles	£182.05
Building Fund	£30		
TOTAL	£1364.16	TOTAL	£533.76

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

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.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Immaculate Conception is a mystery of our Catholic Faith. It is one of several points where Our Lady was treated in a privileged way by God, emphasising her unique place in His plan for salvation. As a doctrine of the Church it was only promulgated in 1854, but had been a strong popular belief for centuries. Our own Blessed John Duns Scotus (1266-1308) was one of the greatest champions of this dogma. **There will be Mass to mark this feast day of Our Lady in St. Mungo's on Monday 8th December at 10 a.m. and St. Mungo's Primary will join us.**



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.

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**



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!

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!

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.

RCIA

We will next meet on **Tuesday 6th January at 6.30 p.m. in the chapel house.**

Dunkeld News

The latest edition of the Dunkeld News is now out. There are some copies in each of the churches. It can also be viewed on the diocesan website.

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.

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION
Sunday 7th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent (A)</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Maureen Taylor (RIP)</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Rachelle Milner (RIP)</i>
Monday 8th December <i>Immaculate Conception of the BVM</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (NS)</i>
Tuesday 9th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Susan Watson (Anniversary)</i>
Wednesday 10th December	NO MASS TODAY			
Thursday 11th November <i>Advent Feria</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (NF)</i>
Friday 12th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Maureen Taylor (RIP)</i>
Saturday 13th December <i>St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr</i>	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Sunday 14th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent (A)</i> <i>Gaudete Sunday</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>

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
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 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

Parish Priest: Father Michael Carrie (email: stmungo@dunkelddioocese.org.uk)

Postal Address: St. Mungo's Chapel House, 25 Mar Street, Alloa FK10 1HR

Telephone: 01259 212486

Parish Website: www.catholicalloa.com

St. Mungo's Hall Bookings: Cathie Ramage

Telephone: 07596 955869

Email: ramagethrn@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding co-ordinators: Margaret Fern and Jean Gilbert

Telephone: 07746 051444

Email: stmungopsc@dunkelddioocese.org.uk

Parish SVDP

Telephone: 07866 538557

Email: SVDP.StMungos@gmail.com

*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*