

*Welcome to the Parishes of
St. Mungo's, Alloa and St. Serfs, High Valleyfield*

Sunday 4th January 2026 - Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Next Sunday: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (A)



The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king..." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth" Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. © Loyola Press

SOLEMN ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER AND THE MOVEABLE FEASTS 2026

Know, dear brethren,

that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,

so by leave of God's mercy

we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection,

who is our Saviour.

*On the **eighteenth** day of **February** will fall Ash Wednesday,*

and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

*On the **fifth** day of **April**, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,*

the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*On the **fourteenth** day of **May** will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*On the **twenty-fourth** day of **May**, the feast of Pentecost.*

*On the **seventh** day of **June**, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.*

*On the **twenty-ninth** day of **November**, the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

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 (Fr Michael's dad), Ann Watson
Our Lady, Health of the sick, pray for them!

We pray for those who have died recently:

Patrick McRobert (*Funeral Mass in St. Mungo's, Thursday 8th January at 10 a.m.*)
Bridget Ferguson (*Funeral Mass in St. Mungo's on Thursday 15th January at 10 a.m.*)
Gavin Taggart

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Bishop Vincent Logan, Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, Fr. Michael Savage, Irene Condie, Margaret Peddie, Elizabeth Samson, Freddie Solomon, Anne Delaney, Pat McTaggart
Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

PARISH INCOME

Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parishes.

The most recent collection totals will be in next week's newsletter

This weekend there will be a special collection for Justice and Peace Scotland

EPIPHANY CHALK



It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Masses for Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. Blessed Chalk will be available at Masses this weekend, for you to take away and use to bless your homes.

The home blessing can be done as follows: Use the blessed chalk to write: **20+C+M+B+26** above the doorways: 2026 for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi – Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar – and for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which is Latin for “**May Christ Bless this House.**” As you are writing, pray the following prayer: *Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

TUESDAY TEAS IN ST. MUNGO'S

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with the Tuesday Teas when they resume in February. If you are able to help please let Fr Michael or Liz Bryce know. You would be part of a rota, so would only be on every couple of weeks

LETTER FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE SUNDAY 2026

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is a zoo in Mexico which I visited a few years ago, and it has one exhibit which is labelled “the most dangerous animal on the planet”. As you look in to the enclosure to see that animal, you see yourself. For what is in the enclosure is a mirror, and the most dangerous animal is humanity. Human beings are a danger to the world and to themselves.

When we lock the door of our house at night, we do so to protect ourselves from our fellow human beings. When our country stockpiles its arms and builds up its military defences, it does so to protect itself from our fellow human beings.

We all long for peace, we have a deep desire for peace – yet peace is shattered by our fellow human beings. Each year we start the new year with a prayer for peace, but, as we do so, we look around and see war and conflict, death and destruction – all caused by humanity.

Every dispute arises, every fallout with our neighbour starts, every military intervention begins in the same place - the human heart. Because in our heart there is anger, bitterness, greed, envy, pride, fear. It only takes a little spark to flame a fire.

The more at risk we feel, the more we take action to protect ourselves, with better locks on our door, or more weapons for our army. Better locks on our door may help keep out the thief, but more arms for our army just tends to encourage our potential enemy to do the same and increase their weapons, and we end up no safer than we were before.

So, our prayer for peace is not just that armies will stop fighting, that acts of terrorism and warfare will cease, that countries will live in harmony with one another. Our prayer is for every human heart, our own included, to be purified of all that is within it that leads to conflict. We pray for disagreements to be settled without resorting to violence, for human life be valued as precious, and for the taking of human life to never be seen as a means to resolve human disputes.

We are each of us part of humanity, and we all struggle to have that peace in our heart, that leads to peace in our family, in our neighbourhood and in our world. We *pray* for peace, since only with God's help can we overcome the human weakness that makes humanity a danger to the world and a danger to ourselves.

May God answer our prayer and fulfil the longing of our heart for peace.

With my prayers and good wishes,

+William Nolan,
Archbishop of Glasgow
President of Justice and Peace Scotland

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who do so much work in our parishes - readers, servers, cleaners, flower arrangers, SVDP, music ministry, sacristans, welcomers, children's liturgy and many more. Thank you for all that you do—it is very much appreciated! Thanks also to those who helped with our Christmas liturgies.

Thank you for your continued prayers for my dad, Frank. It has been a great comfort to me and my family to have so many people praying and offering Masses for him. I have received so many lovely messages of support from Bishop Andrew, Bishop Stephen, my brother priests, friends and parishioners.

At the time of writing we still have no real idea of what lies ahead. The meeting last Monday with one of the consultants didn't really give us anymore information other than what we knew already. Hopefully, following a further scan and a meeting with the specialists on Monday we should know more.

My apologies for a reduced schedule again this week. **There is Mass on Monday and Friday at 9.30 a.m. in St. John Vianney's, Alva** for those who might wish to attend.

God bless,

Fr Michael

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	LITURGY	INTENTION
Sunday 4th January <i>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (A)</i> <i>Preface of Feast; EPI</i>	6 p.m. (Sat)	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>Jean Quinn/Roberta Caine (Anniversaries)</i>
	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Donor's Intention (VM)</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 5th January <i>Weekday of Christmastime</i>	NO MASS TODAY			
Tuesday 6th January <i>Weekday of Christmastime</i>				
Wednesday 7th January <i>Weekday of Christmastime</i>	10 a.m.	St. Serf's Hall	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Thursday 8th January <i>Weekday of Christmastime</i>	10 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Funeral Mass for Patrick McRobert	
Friday 9th January <i>Weekday of Christmastime</i>	NO MASS TODAY			
Saturday 10th January <i>Weekday of Christmastime</i>	6 p.m.	St. Mungo's	Vigil Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 11th January <i>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (A)</i>	9.30 a.m.	St. Mungo's	Mass	<i>Pat McTaggart (Anniversary)</i>
	11.30 a.m.	St. Serf's	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Serf's: on request

St. Mungo's: Saturday 5 to 5.30 p.m.

St. Mungo's Prayer Group

Will next meet on **Tuesday 13th January**
from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Will recommence next month in both parishes.

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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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

Email: stmungopsc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Parish SVDP

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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