



SERVICES & EVENTS

Kalender December 2013

Sundays 9.00 am *Eucharist* (St Augustines) 11.00am (*Sung*) *Eucharist* (St Mungo's)
There is no Sunday School/Mini Mungo Club at present, but children are always welcome at our services.
Story cards and Children's Communion Books are always available.

Wednesdays in the Lady Chapel 10.00 am *Eucharist* (St Mungo's)
(All Rotas are printed separately)

Christmas Services

Wednesday 11th December 7.30pm *ACTIV Carol Service*
(followed by refreshments in the hall)

Saturday 21st December 6.30pm *Nine Lessons and Carols*
(followed by mince pies, mulled wine, soft drinks in the hall)

Tuesday 24th December 11.00pm *Festal Eucharist*

Wednesday 25th December *Christmas Day*, 11am Sung Eucharist

St Mungo's Alexandria

Report from Interim Priest-in-Charge 24th November 2013

Interregnums can be difficult times. Long interregnums which last almost two years are dreadful. St Mungo's have been going through possibly the most difficult period of its history over the past 19 months or so, and although we expect a new Linked Charge with St Augustine's Dumbarton, with a clergy team, this is not likely to happen until March at least.

During parish vacancies lots of things occur! Firstly the lay people are asked to keep the parish going, and that means that a lot falls on the shoulders of the few and that can lead to burnout, and indeed people leaving or resigning important positions. Numbers go down, and people get disheartened.

However, the end is in sight, and the Clergy Team will be in place soon!

Linkage

The Linked Charge will mean that a lot of things will be different, but much will remain the same. The differences will revolve around ministry and how this will be rolled out. A Team of clergy and lay people will be working together to provide pastoral care and services in both St Augustine's Dumbarton and St Mungo's. I will be Rector of both parishes, and leader of the team. By March/April services will be back to normal times, however, you will find that it will not be the same priest every week! Home Communion and the 9am Service will be fully operational again, and then we begin to build.

The worship pattern, liturgies and music will remain unchanged in St Mungo's, although there may be extra services and events, some done jointly with St Augustine's. There is nothing to fear, but much to rejoice about, now, and some of you will have come to realise that I'm not quite the ogre I am often portrayed as being!

Rectories

As you are all aware, I have now moved into St Mungo's Rectory. This was done for a variety of reasons, not least to illustrate my commitment to you, as a congregation. The Associate Priest will live in the Dumbarton Rectory. It was done because the bishop and I decided that St Mungo's Rectory was more central to the people the team will be ministering to. It was done to show clearly that things are about to become different! A part time priest needs space to take time out, and to put them in a house so close to the church invites callers at all times looking for help, in one way or another. It should be the full-time priest who deals with that.

Linda and I have made The Rectory our home, but it is your Rectory, and we really enjoy the possibilities of using it more often for meetings. We live in hope that you will all feel you can pop in for coffee/tea/chat at any time. That is the sort of ministry that we enjoy! You are all welcome at any time!

Mission Action Plan

The parish, with the facilitation of Gill Reynolds, now has a MAP, which contains goals which we should be trying to meet in the next few months. If changes take place, it will mainly be because we are trying to fulfil goals which you have formulated long before my advent! MAP2 is not far away, and we will be reviewing Year One with Gill Reynolds on December 8th, after the 11am Eucharist.

Visiting Priests

During the past months you have had a plethora of clergy looking after you on Sunday mornings, and a special thanks must go out to them all, not least to Fr David Cook, whose commitment went far and above what was expected of him. At the moment, I just don't have the time to do much except presiding at the Eucharist on Wednesdays, and giving support to Pauline Dow who seems to have been keeping it all together over the past months. They say that variety is the spice of life, and you have certainly had lots of that on Sunday mornings.

Glassing in the Side Chapel

Plans are well underway for this work to be done, thanks to Andrew, and we should have a comfy, cosy Prayer/Meeting space in the next couple of months. I'm looking forward to that!

Study Groups

An Advent Study Course will take place in St Augustine's and we hope some of you will come and take part. This is the beginning of lots of joint ventures, many of them taking place at St Mungo's rather than Dumbarton. We need to kick-start this new way of doing things.

Thanks

My thanks go to the Vestry, including the treasurer, and of course, Tom, for all the sterling work which has been done over the past year. I am aware of how hard it gets, yet we have this small committed group of people who have not shirked their responsibilities.

Exciting Times:

I am convinced that St Mungo's has a big future ahead of it, and we must all work together to make it happen. God has never deserted us before, and God will not desert us now! We work hand in hand with the Holy Spirit to make new and exciting things happen, and look forward to a period of growth. I hope you will want to be a part of that!

Fr Kenny Macaulay 23rd Nov 2013.