

ST. MARK'S PARISH

10th September 2023 – 23rd Sunday of Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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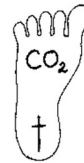
Website: www.stmarksrchurch-edinburgh.org.uk

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 9th September	Vigil	5:00pm	Charley McAuley (Ann)
Sunday 10th September		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 11th September		10:00am	Patricia Fitzpatrick (Ann)
Tuesday 12th September		10:00am	Stefan Boron (Sp Int)
Thursday 14th September		10:00am	Fr. Michael Ho (Sp Int)
Friday 15th September		10:00am	Ernan Coughlan (RIP)
<i>Saturday 16th September</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Martin Family (Sp Int)</i>
<i>Sunday 17th September</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
CONFESSIONS available before Sat Vigil 4.15-4.45pm and before Sun Mass 9.15-9.45am or upon request after any of the weekday Masses.			
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am Every Thursday Evening 7pm-8pm			

CHRISTIAN FOOTPRINT

It's become very fashionable these days to talk about having a carbon footprint. It makes us realise that each of us uses up energy in many different ways and when we least suspect it. So it's not only flying all over the world or driving a gas-guzzling car that leaves its carbon deposit in our atmosphere, but also little things like leaving the TV on standby overnight or forgetting to switch the light off when we no longer need it. Of course, keeping the fridge door wide open doesn't help either! In theory it's possible to monitor people's carbon footprints so that at the end of a week, month or year you can tell what sort of a mark they've made on our environment.



But just imagine keeping a record of a different type of footprint, something positive rather than negative. Let's call it your charity footprint. St Paul tells us today that we should avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. And he goes on to say that love is the benchmark of our faith, for love is the one thing that cannot hurt our neighbour. That's why it's the answer to every one of the commandments. At the end of our lives what sort of charity footprint will we each have? Will we have lived for ourselves or for others? Will the computers show that on balance we have left more good behind us than bad? Everyone's against global warming just like everyone's against cheating. Everyone's in favour of feeding the hungry just like everyone's against murder or robbery. The secret is to find practical ways of stopping global warming and practical ways of loving our neighbour. Most of us will not invent a wonder drug, discover a brand new source of energy or win a Nobel Prize. In the same way when it comes to practical charity it won't be the grand gesture but the small acts of kindness, the thoughtfulness and the consideration that will count in the end. Think globally and act locally, they say. The same could be written about our attempts at Christian charity. Think celestially and act personally. God calls us to leave a charity footprint in very simple ways that don't grab the headlines. But just as switching off one light bulb can begin to make a difference, so too can one simple act of charity. And over a lifetime it all adds up.

WELCOME If you are just visiting our parish today or if this is the first time you have been to Mass for a while, welcome back! We hope our time together unites us in God's love.

SECOND COLLECTION: for our Aged and Infirm Clergy (AICF) will be held next weekend 16 & 17 September. Your support for our sick and elderly priests of the Archdiocese is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM If you wish to have your child baptised, please arrange an appointment with Fr. Seán or Fr. Nick either after Mass, by calling the parish office or sending an email to the above listed email address. Please remember that at least one of the child's parents should be a practicing Catholic as should one of the chosen Godparents/Sponsors.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY MASS: Everyone is welcome to come into the hall after Mass on Sundays for a friendly cuppa tea/coffee, a munch and a chat. Thank you to all the hosts and hostesses of this Post Sunday Mass Refreshment Group, you are doing a great job and your efforts are appreciated by many a parishioner.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK If you know of a forthcoming visit to hospital involving a serious illness or an operation and you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please speak to Fr Seán or Fr. Nick and arrange to be anointed before admission. Once in hospital, if you wish the Sacraments [Holy Communion, Confession, Anointing] please ensure that you make your wishes known to the hospital chaplaincy through the charge nurse on the ward. Please do not leave your request to the last minute as you may not be guaranteed an immediate response.

WILLING HELPERS The next day for group cleaning of the church will be Tuesday 19/09/2023 after the morning Mass. All help is appreciated if only for an hour. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon. Tea and biscuits afterwards!

MASS INTENTIONS: When requesting a Mass to be said for a specific reason, it would be helpful to use a Mass Intention Envelope for each request detailing the name for whom the Mass is to be offered and the purpose of the intention *i.e.* death, anniversary, special intention etc. Although it may not always be possible to fulfil every request - should a specific date be chosen, however Fr Seán & Fr. Nick will endeavour to accommodate all requests as close to the specified date. Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

<i>St. Mark's</i>	<i>ATTENDANCE</i>	<i>OFFERTORY</i>	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</i>
<i>VIGIL</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>£278</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>£450</i>	

St. Mark's, Oxgangs is a parish of The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh, a charity registered in Scotland - Number SC008540

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Ezekiel [33:7-9]

If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 94:1-2. 6-9]

Response: **O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out your joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God
and we the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

[13:8-10] *Love is the answer to every one of the commandments.*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

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Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [18:15-20]

If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, is between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

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