

ST. MARK'S PARISH

17th September 2023 – 24th Sunday of Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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PARISH NEWS

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Remi Allie Connelly daughter of Peter and Stephanie, who was baptised in St Mark's church last Saturday, and also to Rory and Shiloh Bishop, son and daughter of Ebenezer and Stephanie who were baptised in St Mark's church last Tuesday. We welcome them as a children of God.

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

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: New and current members of the 100 Club can collect an envelope at the back of the church. Please write your name and contact number on the envelope with the money inside. Then place it in the wooden box marked House Blessings or give it to Father Seán or Father Nick. The levy for each number is £20 and prizes are 1st: £30 2nd: £10 and 3rd: £10 to be paid out 10 times a year. Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join. Teddy bear Tombola will take place on October 15th.

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.

OCT, NOV & DEC issues of Living Faith booklets are now available at the back of the church. **Oct & Nov** issues of **My Day by Day** booklets are also available at the back of the church.

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!

GIFT AID: if anyone would like to participate in this very beneficial and free source of additional revenue for St. Mark's or would like more information on how easy the Gift Aid Scheme really is, please speak to Fr. Seán, Fr. Nick, Catherine Burns or Paul Drury. Thank you for your generosity, it is very much appreciated and helps us to maintain the much needed work of our parish

MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 16th September Vigil	5:00pm	Martin Family (Sp Int)
Sunday 17th September	10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 18th September	10:00am	Isobel Cairns (Ann)
Tuesday 19th September	10:00am	Emmett McNally (Ann)
Thursday 21st September	10:00am	Angus Speirs (RIP)
Friday 22nd September	10:00am	
<i>Saturday 23rd September Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Margaret McDonald (Sp Int)</i>
<i>Sunday 24th 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		

CREATING VICTIMS

Today's gospel teaches us one of the most important lessons of our faith. Jesus makes no bones about it: if we want to be forgiven then we must first forgive others. "I can never forgive him/her" cannot be part of the Christian's vocabulary. Forgiveness is so central to Christianity that it is the reason why we baptise. We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, says our Creed. And the principal reason we follow Christ is so that we might experience the forgiveness of God and be set free to lead the lives that God intended us to enjoy. The Church is the community of God's forgiven. If we refuse to forgive then we create victims. The first victim is us. When we withhold forgiveness we take refuge in self-pity. We see ourselves as the one who is hurt and injured and we end up wading in bitterness, anger and resentment. How could anyone do this to me of all people? Me? We allow ourselves to dwell on the memory of hurt and injury and this begins to affect the way we view life, for anger and resentment only eat away at the heart. Lack of forgiveness is a heavy burden to carry. And the second victim we create is the person we refuse to forgive. We keep them chained up with the guilt of what they have done and we prevent them from moving on in their relationship with us. To receive forgiveness is a joyful thing that brings peace of mind, and if we hold back on forgiving someone then we are not playing our part in helping them to move on.

Sometimes people forgive in such a way that they humiliate the other person. They are so high-handed that they make the person crawl before they are forgiven. They forgive with their lips but not with their hearts. Yet forgiveness is not something that we possess off our own bat. Forgiveness belongs to God, the same God who has forgiven each of us and who demands that we do the same in return.

Living in a place of unforgiveness is a life-depriving and dreadful experience. "And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother and sister from your heart."



<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>64</i>	<i>£292</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>£520</i>	

St. Marks'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 book of Ecclesiasticus [27:30-28:7]

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. Resentment and anger, these are foul things too, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 102:1-4. 9-12]

Response: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.



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

[14:7-9] *Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.**

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [18:21-35]

I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Then Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you". But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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