

ST. MARK'S PARISH

24th September 2023 – 25th Sunday of Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 23rd September Vigil	5:00pm	Margaret McDonald (Sp Int)
Sunday 24th September	10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 25th September	10:00am	
Tuesday 26th September	10:00am	
Thursday 28th September	10:00am	
Friday 29th September	10:00am	Tam Livingstone (Ann)
<i>Saturday 30th September Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 1st October</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Julia Thomson (Ann)</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.		
EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am Every Thursday Evening 7pm-8pm		

IS GOD UP TO SCRATCH?

They do say that the best way to make God laugh is to tell him your plans. There's nothing wrong with having plans, of course, but sometimes God has a very different knowledge of how our life is going to turn out. God doesn't think like us and his ways are vastly different from ours. Isaiah tells us that the gap between our way of thinking and God's is greater than the gap between heaven and earth. And Jesus puts the finishing touch to this by his story of a landowner who paid everyone the same wage no matter how many hours a day they had worked. Why should people be jealous just because God is generous? One of the hardest things for many Christians to understand is that no matter how much we try, we never even come close to knowing how God works. What seems fair to us, God ignores. What seems to be the obvious choice is overlooked, what appears to be the only solution is bypassed by God. This side to God's character is known as his transcendence. It's the "otherness" of God, the fact that God is unfathomable, that we can't ever capture his vital statistics. When we stop trying to think that we can control things in this world by enlisting God on our side, then we begin to learn. Once we accept how little we know about God's ways then we're really on the road to approaching him. Once we reach the point where we simply invite God into our lives and ask him to act for the good, with no conditions attached, then we have a chance of allowing the Spirit to make us holy. God is greater than anything we can imagine or conjure up, and once we grasp this then as well as some mystifying events in our lives there are also a few very pleasant surprises along the way.



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.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend 30th Sept / 1st Oct. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. 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.

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

2nd COLLECTION for our Aged and Infirm Clergy (AICF) last weekend realised a combined donation of £476. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

SEARCHING FOR JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK: St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh hosts five evenings of special talks with US theologian Professor James Edwards. **Begins 23 October.** Tickets/details at bit.ly/Jesus-in-GospelofMark

<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>£372</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>£384</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 prophet Isaiah [55:6-9]

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18]

Response: The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call to him from their hearts.



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

[1:20-24. 27] *Life to me is Christ.*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results-I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [20:1-16]

Why be envious because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, ‘‘You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage’’. So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, ‘‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’’ ‘‘Because no one has hired us,’’ they answered. He said to them, ‘‘You go into my vineyard too’’. In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, ‘‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first’’. So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. ‘‘The men who came last’’ they said ‘‘have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.’’ He answered one of them and said, ‘‘My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?’’ Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

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