

ST. MARK'S PARISH

29th October 2023 – 30th 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.

REGISTERING FOR SCHOOL: Primary 1 August 2024: If your child's date of birth is between 1 March 2019 and 29 February 2020 they are due to start primary school in August 2024. You must register your child for P1 between 31 October and 17 November 2023. registration will be open from morning of Monday 30th October: This is the link; Start .St Mark's R.C. Primary School are holding their Open Day on Thursday 2nd November at the following times: 9.30am – 10.30am, 11.00am – 12.00pm & 1.30pm – 2.30pm. This is an opportunity for families and carers to have a look around, meet the staff and pupils, and ask any questions they may have. St Mark's PS address is 63 Firrhill Crescent, Edinburgh, EH13 9EE. Ph: 0131 441 2948, email: admin@st-marks.edin.sch.uk .Please get in touch with the school if you have any questions. Please share this information about our wonderful school with your friends and neighbours

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2023/2024 for children who are not attending a catholic school and would like to enrol for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation in 2024, please contact the Parish Office via email or phone and request an application form.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION This Wednesday is the Solemnity of All Saints and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please see changes to our usual timetable. The staff and students of St. Mark's Primary School will join us here for our 10am mass.

SECOND COLLECTION Next Sunday (Nov 4/5) in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund.

MASS FOR ALL SOULS on Thursday 2nd November 2023 will be at 7:00pm. If you would like the name of a loved one who has died read out during this Mass, please add their names to the lists provided at the back of the church. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY.** The intention for this Mass will be for All the Souls of the Faithful Departed. There will not be a 10am morning mass or Exposition (7pm) on that day. **LISTS CLOSE THIS WEEKEND. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

COPPERS WEIGHING YOU DOWN? You can put them in a jar at the back of the church in aid of the building fund. All donations are gratefully received.

SECOND COLLECTION in aid of Missio last weekend realised a combined donation of £130. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 28 th October	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 29 th October		10:00am	Margaret Boyle (Ann)
Monday 30 th October		10:00am	
Tuesday 31 st October		10:00am	Bill & Rose Hetherington (RIP)
Wednesday 1 st November		10:00am	John Allan (Ann)
Wednesday 1 st November		7:00pm	
Thursday 2 nd November		7:00pm	Souls of the Faithful Departed
Friday 3 rd November		10:00am	Grace Cooney (RIP)
Saturday 4 th November	Vigil	5:00pm	John Frost (10 th Ann)
Sunday 5 th November		10:00am	Hugh Fitzpatrick (Ann)
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			

THE NITTY-GRITTY OF LOVE

When the teacher asked the class if they could name any of the seven deadly sins, Lucy put up her hand and answered, "Love, Miss". "Love?" asked the teacher. "Were you not paying attention?" "Well, that's usually the answer!" replied Lucy. Lucy does have a point. We tend to boil everything down to love when it comes to living a Christian life. Yet while love is the answer, it is not always very clear how it works out in practice. Many preachers get wobbly knees when they have to preach about the greatest commandments of loving God and neighbour, because they are so all-embracing that it's difficult to know how to break them down into practicalities. But we get a clue from our passage from Exodus today. Throughout biblical history there are three categories of people who are the litmus test for whether our love is real or not. They are widows, orphans and foreigners (or strangers). Why these three types of people? If you think about it for a moment, these three groups have no clout; they are all vulnerable. Widows had a low status in society because they had no "man" to speak up for them and protect them. Orphans were clearly vulnerable since they were young and unattached with no one to fight their cause. Foreigners were away from their natural surroundings and not culturally savvy, easy prey to those out to cheat them. If we are to follow the great commandment of loving God and neighbour perhaps we can ask who the modern-day widows, orphans and foreigners are. Who are the people who have no clout in our society and how do we treat them? Who are the people who need our support because without it they would be vulnerable? Anyone can love a friend. Anyone can love a "nice" person. Anyone can love their family. But the test of our love of God is how we react to those who can offer us no advantage in return. And just in case we think that these people are invisible, perhaps we need look no further than our own street, our own place of work and our own small circles.



St. Mark's	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible
VIGIL	75	£301	
SUNDAY	135	£398	

St. Marks's, Oxfangs 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 Exodus [22:20-26]

If you are harsh with the widow, or with the orphan, my anger will flare against you.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans. “If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. “If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.” ‘

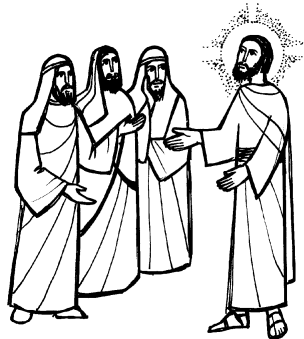
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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51]

Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My god is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians [1:5-10]

You broke with idolatry and became servants of God; you are now waiting for his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread - and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.**

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [22:34-40].

You must love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

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