

## ST. MARK'S PARISH

**1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year A**

**Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson**

Parish Office, 29 Oxgangs Avenue., Edinburgh, EH13 9HX Tel: **0131 441 3915**

**Email: [stmarksoxgangs@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksoxgangs@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.stmarksrchurch-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stmarksrchurch-edinburgh.org.uk)**

## 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 this weekend 30<sup>th</sup> Sept / 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>: £30 2<sup>nd</sup>: £10 and 3<sup>rd</sup>: £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 15<sup>th</sup>.

**MASS FOR ALL SOULS** is being planned for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 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.

**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

**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](http://bit.ly/Jesus-in-GospelofMark)

### MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> September Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	10:00am	Julia Thomson (Ann)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	10:00am	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	10:00am	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	Tam Livingstone (Ann)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> September Vigil	5:00pm	
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	10:00am	People of the Parish
<b>CONFESSIONS</b> 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.		
<b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am Every Thursday Evening 7pm-8pm		

### **FIXED PENALTY GOD?**

All's fair in love and war, they say. But all's not fair when it comes to Christianity. This is because our human concept of fairness does not even come close to understanding God's creative mixture of justice, mercy and grace. We human beings seem to have an inbuilt sense of justice that is like the old-fashioned shop scales. You put the food on one side and balance it with weights on the other side. This ultimately tells you the price that must be paid. In the early period of the Jewish Kingdoms this mentality even led to a culprit's family being punished for his or her crime even though the relatives themselves had done nothing wrong. The scales had to be balanced. Throughout history though, God has failed to take any notice of this type of justice. In today's passage from Ezekiel the people are complaining that God is unjust because he allows wrongdoers to live rather than die. Ezekiel points out that the weight of punishment should only be exacted against those who stubbornly refuse to admit their sin and to repent. A similar scene is presented to us when Jesus discusses with the priests about someone who comes to their senses after behaving badly - they are not to be condemned. This human view of justice and fairness is too crude for God to commit to it, for it leaves no room for manoeuvre, takes no account of the true circumstances of the person involved, and completely abandons any reference to Christ's redeeming sacrifice for sin and the effects of grace. Faced with our faults, God, who has every reason to be indignant, chooses to be forgiving and calls us to be the same with those who offend. Yet we obstinately cling to our appeals for "justice" when in fact we often are only interested in revenge. We plead fairness when what we really want is graceless reprisal. God hates sin and wrongdoing as much as do our tabloids yet he always views things from a wider perspective of grace and forgiveness. And God's passion for pardoning is so strong that while we clamour for the scales to balance, God clamours for a balanced judgement.



<i>St. Mark's</i>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</i>
<b>VIGIL</b>	75	£204.05	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	120	£542.94	

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 Ezekiel [18:25-28]

*When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust”. Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.

© 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd, and Doubleday and Co Inc., and used by permission.

### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 24:4-9]

**Response: Remember your mercy, Lord.**

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor.



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

[2:1-11] *In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other s people’s interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

© 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd, and Doubleday and Co Inc., and used by permission.

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**If anyone loves me he will keep my word**

**and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.**

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [21:28-32]

*He thought better of it and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today”. He answered, “I will not go”, but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, “Certainly, sir”, but did not go. Which of the two did the father’s will?’ ‘The first’ they said. Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.

© 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd, and Doubleday and Co Inc., and used by permission.