

ST. MARK'S PARISH

5th November 2023 – 31st 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 primary school – The City of Edinburgh Council](#) .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.

MASS FOR ALL SOULS Thank you to everyone involved for their hard work making last Thursday night's Mass of All Souls such a moving and spiritual experience.

CHRISTMAS CARDS and Advent Candles are now on sale at the back of the church for anyone thinking of sending Christmas wishes to a friend, family or loved ones at this very special time of the year.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ann Allan who received her Diploma in Catechetics from the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh. It was presented to her by Archbishop Leo Cushley on Wednesday 1st November in her home.

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

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.

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 4 th November Vigil	5:00pm	John Frost (10 th Ann)
Sunday 5 th November	10:00am	Hugh Fitzpatrick (Ann)
Monday 6 th November	10:00am	Ryan Mutch (RIP)
Tuesday 7 th November	10:00am	Jacqueline Hannan (RIP)
Thursday 9 th November	10:00am	Anne Izzard (Ann)
Friday 10 th November	10:00am	Gilbert Attard (RIP)
Saturday 11 th November Vigil	5:00pm	Grace Cooney (RIP)
Sunday 12 th November	10:00am	People Of The Parish
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		

HIDING BEHIND THE MASK?

In Greek theatre, actors who played the parts of the different characters had a special name. They were called hypocrites. Hypocrite did not imply any lack of sincerity on their behalf. It was simply the Greek word for the job they did on stage. Instead of spending hours in the make-up room, they wore a mask. This mask could be tied on or it might be held in front of the face on a short stick. The mask told you if they were a hero or a villain. Jesus uses the word hypocrite to describe the Scribes and Pharisees because they do not practise what they preach. They are supposed to be the bright lights in a movement to teach the religious Law and help people live a just and moral life, when in fact they are only making life more burdensome for people. What's more, they are quite fond of being given honour for what they do. It's easy to think that we must automatically be better than those who do not outwardly seem to be living the life that God asks of us.



At the heart of this hypocrisy is a lack of humility. We do not practise our religion as a result of being good. We practise it because we know how needy we are and how much we depend on God even for the little about us that is of value. Humility means acting with our real faces on view, with no mask. It means accepting that all of our achievements, all of our skills and our tendencies to goodness are first and foremost the result of God's initiative and grace. So, as we settle into our pews today we are reminded that all we have comes from God and we cannot claim to be better than anyone else due to our own merits. Only if we have this humility will we be exalted in God's eyes. Otherwise we are simply holding up a mask and waiting for the curtain call.

<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>50</i>	<i>£235</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>£439</i>	

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 Malachi [1:14-2:2.8-10]

You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 130]

Response: Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever.



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

Thessalonians [2:7-9. 13] *We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well.*

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

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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 [23:1-12]

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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