

## ST. MARK'S PARISH

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Year A**

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

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### MASS DATES

### TIMES

### INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>People Of The Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Mary Moran</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Marjory McPhillips &amp; Sarah Brannigan</b>
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Special Intentions</b>
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	
<i>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People Of The Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>John &amp; Matilda Fitzgerald (Sp Int)</i>
<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>EUCARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am Every Thursday Evening 7pm-8pm		

### INTEREST RATES

Imagine being given 20 years' salary in one go and simply putting it in a sock under your bed. That's what happens in today's gospel when the master gives five talents, three talents and one talent to his servants. A talent was a coin that was worth almost 20 years pay for a servant or a labourer, so the first servant actually got 100 years' salary and the second got 60 years' in advance. Of course, the man who got 20 years' pay simply went and buried it in the ground. He knew his master was a demanding man and he was scared to use his talent in case he ended up making a loss. What excuse do we make for not using the talents that God has given to us? Many people say that God really has given them nothing special to do in their lives. They simply exist and one day they'll die. But today's gospel clearly shows that everyone has been given some role by God and every baptised Christian has been called to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Other people are quick to compare themselves to others. They say they are not as good as So-and-So and what's the point of their stepping forward when others are "more talented"? Yet God does not judge us in comparison with others and what they may or may not be capable of doing. God knows what we are capable of, and he expects us only to respond in the fullest way we can. Perhaps the saddest people are those who have convinced themselves that God is asking too much of them, like the soprano who turned down the request to sing in the choir because the weekly practice clashed with her favourite soap opera on TV. God expects us to bring a return on the talents he has given us, and this means more than simply going through the motions. It means taking risks, it means stretching ourselves for the sake of the gospel, and it means putting our whole hearts into practising our faith. So if God were to ask you today what you have done with talents that you were given, would you know what your talents are and would you be able to show how you have been cooperating with the Holy Spirit to try and make them grow?



## 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** next weekend (26/11) in aid of Catholic Education. There will be boxes at the back of the church for anyone wishing to donate to this cause.

**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.

**ST MARKS CHRISTMAS PARTY Grown-ups** - Join us on Saturday evening **December 9<sup>th</sup>** at 6.30pm in the hall for a wee social gathering over a Hot Buffet. **Growing-ups** - Join us on Sunday morning **December 10<sup>th</sup>** for our Children's Christmas Party at 11.30am – 1pm (ish) in the hall. Entertainment will be provided for each Shin-Dig. **Grown-ups** - tickets £10pp – please put in an envelope with your name – or names on it and give to any of the names listed below. **Growing-ups** – no charge (but need to know Name, Age and Gender – for Santa). If anyone would like to donate a prize for our Grown-ups raffle OR a wee gift for our children's party on Sunday morning please contact Jacquie George, Johnny Bhoy McDade, Fr Nick or Fr Seán.

**CHARITY FUNDRAISING:** November 100 club draw results and prizes are: **1<sup>st</sup>: #14 Eddie Hoy £30. 2<sup>nd</sup>: #01 Brian Monaghan £10 and 3<sup>rd</sup>: #41 Denis Boyle £10.** Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join. Home made cloth Advent Calendars will also be on sale as we lead into the season of Advent.

**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.

**WILLING HELPERS** The next day for group cleaning of the church will be Tuesday 21/11/2023 after the morning Mass. All help is appreciated if only for an hour. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon. Tea and biscuits afterwards!

**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.

<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>	<b>69</b>	<b>£273</b>	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>£372</b>	

St. Marks's, Oxfords 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 Proverbs [31:10-13.19-20.30-

**31]** *A perfect wife - who can find her?*

A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

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### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 127:1-5]

**Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;  
Your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life.



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

**Thessalonians [5:1-6]** *Let not the Day of the Lord overtake you like a thief.*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

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**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Even if you have to die, says the Lord,  
Keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.  
Alleluia!**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [25:14-30]

*You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

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