

ST. MARK'S PARISH

26th November 2023 – CHRIST the KING 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.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend (3/12). Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you

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 9th** at 6.30pm in the hall for a wee social gathering over a Hot Buffet. **Growing-ups** - Join us on Sunday morning **December 10th** 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 BhoymcDade, Fr Nick or Fr Seán.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION normally held weekly on Thursday evening from 7-8pm will now be held on a monthly basis on the first Thursday of each month from 7-8pm in the evening.

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.

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.

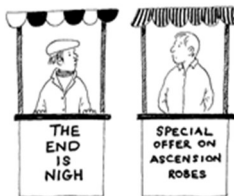
COPPERS WEIGHING YOU DOWN? You can put them in a jar at the back of the church in aid of the building fund. All donations are gratefully received.

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 25th November Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 26th November	10:00am	John & Matilda Fitzgerald (SpInt)
Monday 27th November	10:00am	
Tuesday 28th November	10:00am	
Thursday 30th November	10:00am	Nellie & John Wright (Ann)
Friday 1st December	10:00am	Alan Blackburn (RIP)
<i>Saturday 2nd December Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Moyra Whelan (1st Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 3rd December</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<p>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.</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm</p>		

THE RETURN

A man named William Miller predicted the end of the world in 1842, 1843 and 1844, something, which gave rise to frequently revised predictions among some Christian sects over the last 150 years. However, people continued to trust him even when the predictions turned out to be false, and on the last occasion he made a fortune out of selling believers white "ascension robes"! Every week we profess in the Creed our belief that "Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead". The first two weeks of Advent in particular focus on this second coming, so how should we understand it and how should it affect the way we live? Nobody knows when this will happen, even Jesus himself admitted that it was in the hands of his Father. Since we don't know, it is pointless getting worried each time some crank starts predicting the end of times and starts pointing to wars and famines as precursors as there has always been wars, famines and natural disasters all throughout history. But the message of the gospel is not to keep worrying about the future coming of Jesus; it is rather that we should stay awake and ready in the work we do for the sake of the gospel, and most of all, that we should be attentive to prayer, praying for the grace to persevere in our Christian calling and to be found ready to meet our God whenever that time may be. Our God is a loving God, not some sort of vengeful judge who just can't wait to sentence us for eternity. The promises of Jesus show us that if we are faithful to his commands and teaching then we have nothing to fear when our days are over. The doctrine of the second coming is about judgement but most of all it is about deliverance. When Christ comes to those who are his own, he comes to set us free, to release us from all the weights of this world and to open the gates for us to a world where sin and death have no hold and where all tears are wiped away. Christ's second coming, and our own moment of death, should not be things to be feared. We should long for them and our prayer should be the constant Advent refrain, "Come, Lord Jesus, come!"



<i>St. Mark's</i>	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</i>
VIGIL	75	£326	
SUNDAY	110	£350	

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 prophet Ezekiel [34:11-12.15-17]

As for you, my sheep, I will judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest - it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 22:1-3. 5-6]

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

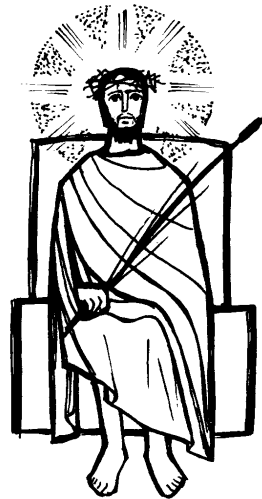
You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [15:20-26. 28]

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.



Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order:

Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [25:31-46]

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

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