

ST. MARK'S PARISH

31st December 2023 – Feast of The Holy Family Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 30th December Vigil	5:00pm	Sheila Duffy (Ann)
Sunday 31st December	10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 1st January	10:00am	Sr. Christine Triay (Sp Int)
Tuesday 2nd January	10:00am	Margaret Neilson (Sp Int)
Thursday 4th January	10:00am	Olive McNab (Ann)
Friday 5th January	10:00am	Danuta & Ian Fraser & Family
<i>Saturday 6th January Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Tommy Douthart (RIP)</i>
<i>Sunday 7th January</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
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 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm		

WE ARE FAMILY: From the corner of the farmhouse kitchen the mouse looked on as the farmer's wife opened a small box. To his horror the mouse saw that it was a mouse-trap! So he went straight outside to the cow and asked her to help him with the trap. "It doesn't really affect me" said the cow. So the mouse went to the chicken to ask for her help. But she said she wasn't worried by it either. Even the pig was unmoved by the mouse's pleas. In the middle of the night the trap snapped shut and the farmer's wife came downstairs to see what had happened. The mouse wasn't in it. Instead a poisonous snake had been caught by the tail and it lashed out, biting her on the leg. The doctor came and said it would take a long time for her to be well again. She needed building up with lots of chicken soup. So the farmer killed the chicken to make the soup. When the friends and neighbours came round to sit with his wife they needed feeding so he butchered the pig and had ham sandwiches on hand for anyone who felt peckish. But unfortunately his wife got worse and after a few weeks she died. So the cow had to be slaughtered to provide food for the reception after the funeral. The whole household was brought down simply because it failed to concern itself with the smallest of its members: the mouse. The Holy Family was destined to concern itself with the faults and failings of many. In fact, its ultimate destiny was to take on the sins of the world. Other people's problems are not just their own - they're ours too. We belong to so many different levels of families: our nuclear family at home; our extended family with grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins etc; our local community; our nation; the worldwide family of humanity and the family of believers that is the Church. The feast of the Holy Family shows us that we all belong to each other because we all belong to God. And any problem that one of our family members might have is ours too. Even if it's only the mouse!



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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Arran Joseph Hugh Barsby, son of Oliver and Jennifer, who was baptised in St Mark's church last Tuesday. We welcome him as a child of God into our parish.

PLEASE REMEMBER in your prayers those who are on holiday and travelling at this time, especially our children and teachers at St. Mark's Primary School on their Christmas holidays. May the Good Lord continue to watch over them and bless them with his care.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS Fr. Sean & Fr. Nick would like to express their sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make our celebration of Christmas such a holy, sacred and special occasion. Your efforts are very much appreciated by everyone. Thank you also for the many lovely cards, gifts and the great kindness expressed to us both this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. May God bless you all and a very happy New Year.

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.

REMINDER to parents of all children making **First Confessions**, **First Holy Communions** or **Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held on Sunday 4th February during 10am Mass. All application forms must be received prior to this. A meeting of parents of children making their first Confession is set for January 15th @7pm in the church hall. A meeting of parents of children making their First Holy Communion is set for January 22nd @7pm in the church hall and for parents of children making their Confirmation February 5th @7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all over these coming weeks.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend 6/7 Jan. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you.

<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>87</i>	<i>£468</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>£344</i>	

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

Reading: A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus [3:2-6. 12-14]

He who fears the Lord respects his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 127:1-5]

Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

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
all the days of your life!



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

[3:12-21] *Family life in the Lord.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you.

Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

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Alleluia, alleluia

**May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
Let the message of Christ find a home with you.
Alleluia.**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [2:22-40]

The child grew, filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

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