

ST. MARK'S PARISH

17th March 2024 – 5th Sunday of Lent Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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

Email: stmarksoxgangs@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarkschurch-edinburgh.org.uk

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 16th March	Vigil	5:00pm	John Smith (RIP)
Sunday 17th March		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 18th March		10:00am	Morgan Family (SpInt)
Tuesday 19th March		10:00am	Baeta & Gabriel Boron (SpInt)
Thursday 21st March		10:00am	Andrea Anderson (RIP)
Friday 22nd March		10:00am	Boguslawa Lasak (Ann)
<i>Saturday 23rd March</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 24th March</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Carla Spadavecchia (RIP)</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.			
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

TOO MUCH TO LOSE?

For the last month we've been making our way through Lent on a voyage towards Easter. It's as if we've taken to the road with Christ on his journey up to Jerusalem where he (and we) will embrace death so as to rise above it to a life that never ends. But as we've journeyed with Christ we've been listening to his words guiding us along our route to Easter. These words take on a different colour each year in a three-year cycle that the Church's liturgy uses. But this year the theme of Jesus' message has been unmistakable: you must embrace the wisdom of God that the world considers to be sheer foolishness.



Jesus could have tried to buy us off with some easy words, like politicians who promise everything in return for votes. He could have told us that we can get to heaven just by praying and paying. He could have offered us salvation by keeping the law and being seen in the right places. He could have suggested a quick fix but he chose to offer the tougher route. We've listened to a series of paradoxes over the last few weeks and today Jesus tells us that just as a grain of wheat must be buried before it can sprout, so too we have to die if we are to enjoy life. His message is one of self-sacrifice, cross-bearing, total service and a love which counts no costs. And unlike other philosophies that underline the skills and talents of their adherents, Jesus tells us that we reach our perfection the more like a servant we become, and that we achieve our dignity by putting ourselves last rather than first. This message isn't for everyone. It's not for people who like to be thought of as important but now find they must consider themselves last of all. Not for people who prize possessions, now being told to give to the poor. Not for those who invest everything in the here and now. Not for those with status who fear that they'll lose their respectability. Not for wise people who see it as sheer foolishness. Is it for you?

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.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION Fr. Nick and Fr. Seán will be available to hear confession during a service of reconciliation on Tuesday 26th March at 7pm.

EASTER TRIDUM TIMETABLE; Holy Thursday 7pm. Good Friday 3pm. Easter vigil (Sat) 8pm. Easter Sunday 10am.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held every Monday evening during Lent at 7:00pm in St. Mark's, beginning on Monday 19th Feb.

12 VOLUNTEERS are being sought to participate in our Easter Triduum celebration for the Vigil Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (March 28th) to have their feet washed. Sign-up sheets are available at the back of the church for anyone interested. **Only 5 places left – if you snooze – you lose.**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 The names of all children registered for St. Mark's Sacramental Programme 2023/24 are posted on our notice board. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive these sacraments in the coming months. Parents should make sure that their children's names are on the list. **If your child's name is not on the list, please contact Fr. Seán or Fr. Nick as soon as possible.**

CONGRATULATIONS to the children of our parish who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. We thank the parents, school staff and parish catechists for preparing the children for this sacred occasion.

THE GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2024-25 are now available at the back of the Church for those who have pledged to gift aid their donations. Please take your set away. If your circumstances have changed such that you are no longer eligible to Gift Aid your donations (eg no longer paying income tax or if your address has changed), then please speak to Fr Seán or the Gift Aid Organisers, Katy Burns and Paul Drury. Your Gift Aid donations are a much needed source of income for St Mark's. They allow us to claim 25p for every £1 donated. I would urge any parishioner who pays income tax and has not yet signed up for Gift Aid to please do so. Thank you for your continued support of the Parish throughout the year.

SPICK AND SPAN: Come and have fun with mops and brushes whilst getting the church and hall ready for Easter. Free event and tea with biscuits thrown in! This Tuesday 19/03/24

2nd COLLECTION in aid of Papal and Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF) last weekend realised a combined donation of £300. Thank you for your support

<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>77</i>	<i>£307</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>£370</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah [31:31-34]

I will make a new covenant and never call their sin to mind.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord! No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

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

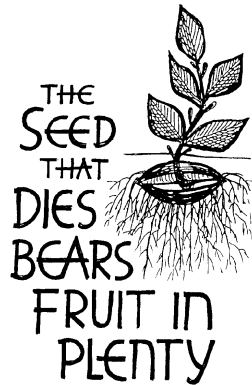
Responsorial Psalm [50:3-4. 12-15]

Response: A pure heart create for me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
With a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews [5:7-9]

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

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

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;
Wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [12:20-30]

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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