

## ST. MARK'S PARISH

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

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

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### MASS DATES

### TIMES

### INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Ellen Forker (Ann)</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Gabriel Boron (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Ann Allan (RIP)</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Michele Bottiglieri (Month's Mind)</b>
<i>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Jay Lodge (Ann)</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>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

### NOT SO COCK SURE?

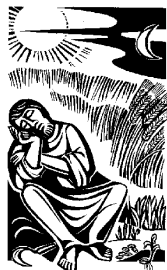
There is a story told of a cockerel who convinced himself that he was of vital importance to the world, because every time he crowed at dawn, the sun rose!

It's a tale told to poke fun at people who think that everything revolves around them and everything depends upon their efforts. When Jesus tells the parables of the kingdom of God, he uses a similar analogy. He describes how it is that we must work for the kingdom, and yet at the same time the kingdom does not simply depend upon our efforts.

There's no shortage of cockerel Christians. Sometimes we fool ourselves into thinking that the spread of the kingdom of God is brought about by our efforts. Nothing could be further from the truth. We can and must co-operate with God, but only the Holy Spirit can cause the kingdom to grow. We may put up the sails, but it's God who provides the wind.

Similarly, there are those who mix up the Church with the kingdom of God. But they are not the same. We cannot look at the growth or decline of the Church and equate it with the kingdom. The kingdom is more mysterious than the visible display which the Church gives. The kingdom of God is to be found wherever the Spirit of God is at work, wherever there is growth, harmony, reconciliation and peace. And we know that this happens in many places outside the Church.

All the efforts of the Church to bring Christ to the world are good and laudable. But there is something even greater at work. The kingdom, which is being built here on earth but will come to completion only in heaven, cannot be summoned up at our command. It is God's own kingdom, and it is God alone "who withers green trees and makes the withered green."



## 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.

**RIP** Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Paul Thomas Forry who was recently reborn into eternal Life. His Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 10am in St. Mark's and thereafter to Morton Hall Crematorium (Main Chapel) for 11.30am. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Olive Olaedo Ugomma Uhegbu, daughter of Theddy & Stella-Vera, who was baptised in St Mark's church last Saturday. We welcome her as a child of God into our parish.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY:** A very blessed and happy Father's Day to all of our fathers in the parish. May you continue to be the best role model and teacher to your children as they grow and mature into adulthood. But for today, relax and enjoy your very special day.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June @ 7pm in the Parish House

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** the children of our local primary who will be moving on to secondary education after the holidays. We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our Children's Liturgy Group Leaders who give tirelessly of their time in helping these children grow in the understanding of their faith and experiencing the love of God. Children's liturgy at Mass on Sundays will end on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in conjunction with school holidays (June 28<sup>th</sup>) and will re-commence again with the start of the new school year in mid-August. May God bless you all.

**ST MARKS SUMMER PARTY** Join us on Saturday evening June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm in the hall for a wee social gathering over a Hot Buffet - entertainment will be provided. Tickets available - £10pp – please put in an envelope with your name – or names on it, if anyone would like to donate a prize for our raffle OR for further information, please contact Johnny Bhoy McDade, Fr Nick or Fr Seán.

**SPICK AND SPAN:** Come and have fun with mops and brushes as we continue in our mission to keep our beautiful church clean and tidy for all the faithful who practice their faith here at St. Mark's. All help is greatly appreciated by everyone - both in heaven and on earth. Monday 18/6/2024 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

<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>76</i>	<i>£332</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>£322</i>	

t. 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

### First Reading: A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel [17:22-24]

*I make low trees grow.*

The Lord says this:

‘From the top of the cedar,  
from the highest branch I will take a shoot  
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.  
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.  
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.  
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,  
every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches.  
And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one  
who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow,  
who withers green trees and makes the withered green.  
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it’.

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### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 91:2-3. 13-16]

*Response: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.*

It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.



### Second Reading: A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [2 Cor 5:6-10]

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight - we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

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**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [4:26-34]

*It is the smallest of all the seeds; yet it grows into the biggest shrub of them all.*

Jesus said to the crowds, ‘This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.’

He also said, ‘What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.’

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

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