

# ST. MARK'S PARISH

**21<sup>st</sup> July 2024 – 16<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 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>In Thanksgiving (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Fr Robert McCabe (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Ethan Hunter (RIP)</b>
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Ann Allan (RIP)</b>
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Patricia Fitzpatrick (Ann)</b>
<i>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Anna Sinclair (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Phil White (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			

## A GOD WHO CARES

One of the most striking aspects of the gods of ancient peoples is that they inspired fear. It's a common feature in these ancient deities that they had to be avenged. So, it was quite common for some enormous sacrifice to be made in order to appease them and prevent them from venting their spleen on those who were unfortunate enough to be their subjects and followers.

When Moses came back down the mountain it must have come as a relief to the Hebrews to find out what sort of God they had made a deal with. One who would keep them under his thumb or one who would let them grow?

People who don't believe in God often find it necessary to lampoon the God they don't believe in. So they invent a ludicrous image and then proceed to knock it down with either sarcasm or humour.

Christians would probably be content with a God who as creator was responsible for the wonderful world we live in and for the gift of life that we all enjoy. If we could have a God who was also just and not given to flights of angry vengeance then that would be a bonus. To have a God who took time off from holding the universe together and occasionally showed that he knew of our world's existence would be like winning the lottery.

Of course, having a God who was personally interested in each of us would presumably be out of the question? Surely God has got more important things to do than be concerned about me as an individual with all my likes and dislikes, my wants and needs? So when God speaks in today's scripture about shepherding his flock and taking care of them, and when Jesus feels sorry for his listeners and takes pity on them for they're like sheep without a shepherd, what's going on? Is it a lie? A joke? Or do I need to look again at the type of God we've got?



## 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.

**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.

**CHARITY FUNDRAISING:** July 100 club draw results and prizes are: **1<sup>st</sup>: #38 John Burns £30. 2<sup>nd</sup>: #52 Jacquie George and 3<sup>rd</sup>: #41 Denis Boyle.** This is the last draw for the 100 club until the Autumn. Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join and we will be selling them again this August. please consider joining (£20 per annum) you could win one of the three monthly prizes of £30, £10 or £10. New member forms are available at the back of Church or you can speak to any of the committee members - Jacquie George, Alma McDonald, Alexander Robbin or Elisa & Colin Armit, Helen McFadden Tracy Loake & Filomena Tuivanualevu. Thank you.

**BARGE TRIP** There are only a couple of places left for our Barge trip in August. If you would like to go then see the list on the notice board at the back of the church.

**WHY WOULDN'T YOU?** Spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration praying before the Lord. You can pray in thanksgiving for all he has done for you, the rosary for your family, friends and loved ones, pray for the conversion of others, for vocations to your parish, diocese or the world in general. You can read and meditate on your favourite passages from the Bible, pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for those nearing the end of their lives or you can simply enjoy the silence, peace and tranquillity of the Lord's presence as he lovingly listens and speaks to your heart. Your presence and commitment of this time to the Lord is a prayer in itself. See Mass schedule on front page for details of days and times of Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mark's.

**REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY MASS:** Everyone is welcome to come into the hall after Mass on Sundays for a friendly cuppa tea/coffee, a munch and a chat. Thank you to all the hosts and hostesses of this Post Sunday Mass Refreshment Group, you are doing a great job and your efforts are appreciated by many a parishioner.

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

<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>63</i>	<i>£264</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>£466</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 Jeremiah [23:1-6]

*The remnant of my flock I will gather and I will raise up shepherds to look after them.*

‘Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered - it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds - it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost - it is the Lord who speaks!

‘See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.

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### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 22]

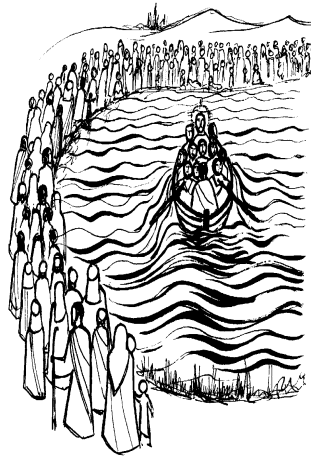
*Response:* **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

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.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

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 letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

[2:13-18] *Christ Jesus is the peace between us, and has made the two into one.*

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

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**Alleluia, alleluia**

**The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord,  
I know them and they follow me.**

**Alleluia**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [6:30-34]

*They were like sheep without a shepherd.*

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, ‘You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while’; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

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