

ST. MARK'S PARISH

8th September 2024 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 7th September	Vigil	5:00pm	Friend getting married (Sp Int)
Sunday 8th September		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 9th September		10:00am	Nkiruka Patricia (Sp Int)
Tuesday 10th September		10:00am	Cathie, Alec & Jim Paterson (RIP)
Thursday 12th September		10:00am	Patricia Fitzpatrick (Ann)
Friday 13th September		10:00am	Morgan Family (Sp Int)
<i>Saturday 14th September</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 15th September</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Forbes Craig (Ann)</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			

HAPPY DAYS

The Jewish people couldn't wait for the Messiah to come. The prophets had foretold that when he did arrive, things would be very different and it would be a time of great rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of blind people seeing once more, deaf people hearing again and disabled people jumping like deer. There was a tremendous longing and yearning for the Messiah, especially since the land was currently occupied by a foreign army. So when Jesus appears on the scene people begin to wonder whether or not he might be the Messiah they were expecting. By the end of today's gospel they have made their minds up. "He has done all things well" – as the prophets had said. Jesus hasn't gone away. He's still with us till the end of time through the Spirit. So what about our "happy days"? Have they disappeared? To have faith means to see and hear things differently. We often speak about people having the eyes of faith. It doesn't mean that they see different things but that they are able to see things in a different perspective, from God's perspective. That's why when they see grief and suffering they feel the same pity as an atheist – who can't see beyond the grave. When they walk in the countryside and listen to the singing of the birds they are aware of nature but they know that there is someone who created our natural world around us.



Faith in Jesus opens our eyes to what lies beyond physical sight; it opens our ears to hear good news in the midst of the world's troubles; it provides us with a cause for joy. The Jewish people did not fear the coming of the Messiah, because they had an expectant hope that he would set them free from all that prevented them from living the life that their God had promised them. Christians too welcome Jesus as he comes to set us free, to release us from a blurred vision of our world, from being deaf to the voice of God in our surroundings and for this He invites us to sing for joy!

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.

PRAYERS are asked for those parishes in our Archdiocese who are preparing for a change of priests, may they all work together united in their love for God.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: 100 club are now collecting fees for the coming year 2024/25. Draw Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join. If you are not already subscribing - please consider joining (£20 per annum) you could win one of the three monthly prizes of £30, £10 or £10. The 100 club is our main fundraiser, all proceeds are donated evenly between SCIAF & Mary's Meals. 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, Elisa & Colin Armit, Helen McFadden, Ann Tobin & Filomena Tuivanualevu. Thank you.

GIFT AID: if anyone would like to participate in this very beneficial and free source of additional revenue for St. Mark's or would like more information on how easy the Gift Aid Scheme really is, please speak to Fr. Seán, Fr. Nick, Catherine Burns or Paul Drury. Thank you for your generosity, it is very much appreciated and helps us to maintain the much needed work of our parish.

MASS INTENTIONS: When requesting a Mass to be said for a specific reason, it would be helpful to use a Mass Intention Envelope for each request detailing the name for whom the Mass is to be offered and the purpose of the intention *ie* death, anniversary, special intention etc. Although it may not always be possible to fulfil every request - should a specific date be chosen, however Fr Seán & Fr. Nick will endeavour to accommodate all requests as close to the specified date. Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £1,411.26 Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you.

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>60</i>	<i>£242</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>£354</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

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [35:4-7]

The ears of the deaf shall be unsealed and the tongues of the dumb shall be loosed.

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 145:7-10]

Response: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St James [2:1-5]

God chose the poor to be the heirs to the kingdom.

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest'. Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

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Alleluia, alleluia

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:

You have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [7:31-37]

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened'. And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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