

ST. MARK'S PARISH

8th December 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 7 th December	Vigil	5:00pm	Torres LLano family (RIP)
Sunday 8 th December		10:00am	Julia Armit (Ann)
Monday 9 th December		10:00am	Nelly Lumanglas (Ann)
Tuesday 10 December		10:00am	Eileen Morgan (Sp Int)
Thursday 12 th December		10:00am	Ann & Neil Sweeney (Sp Int)
Friday 13 th December		10:00am	John Hanlon (Ann)
Saturday 14 th December	Vigil	5:00pm	James Jervis (Ann)
Sunday 15 th December		10:00am	People of the Parish
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			

TWO REASONS TO HOPE

When God first agreed on a covenant with our ancestors, it was based on two things: “steadfast love and faithfulness”.

Anyone with eyes can easily see that it didn't take our ancestors long to break their side of the agreement and forget their “special relationship” with God which depended on how they treated him and other people.

So, you might think that God would have torn up the covenant and declared it null and void, but He didn't. God never stopped being loving and faithful, whatever his people got up to. No matter how far His people strayed, God remained steadfast and faithful. This dual characteristic of God, steadfastness and faithfulness, is the reason why Christians trust God. It is the basis of Christian hope.

Our Advent liturgy today invites us to deepen this sense of hope. Don't be miserable, says the prophet Baruch, don't go around sad and distressed because your God is coming to set things right. Advent looks forward to the fulfilment of the promises that God has made to us. And God is steadfast and faithful. But Christian hope is not merely about the future. It's not like the vague hope that one day we might win the lottery. It affects how we live our lives today, because the seeds of the future are based on my relationships here and now. Hope shines a new light on this reality. It's a dynamic gift that stops us from closing in on ourselves and instead spurs us on to new beginnings, to new challenges and to new life. We live by faith; we continue through charity; we flourish in hope. The hope we entertain is not simply an optimism that Jesus will return at the end of time but is a conviction that here and now he can come into our lives as Messiah and can set us free from whatever weighs us down. And come he will if we invite him. For he is steadfast and faithful.



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.

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. Tuesday 17/12/2024 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE: The times for our two Christmas Masses will be – Christmas Eve (Vigil) @ 5pm and Christmas Day @ 10am. For a more in-depth view of that week please see handout available at the back of the church and on notice board.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION will be held in St. Mark's on Thursday Dec 19th at 7pm. If this date or time is unsuitable for anyone then there will also be a service of reconciliation for the parishes of the South Edinburgh Cluster held in St. Gregory's Parish Church on Thursday Dec 12th at 7pm.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: December 100 club draw results and prizes are: 1st: **Tony Hetherington** £30. 2nd: **Tony Flynn** £10 and 3rd: **Matthew Hope** £10. Congratulations to you all.

CHILDRENS LITURGY during Sunday morning mass will stop for a break over the Christmas period. The last one will be on the morning of Sunday Dec 15th and it will resume again starting on January 12th 2025.

ST MARKS CHRISTMAS PARTY Grown-ups - Join us on Saturday evening **December 14th** at 6.30pm in the hall for a wee social gathering over a Hot Buffet. **Growing-ups** - Join us on Sunday morning **December 15th** for our Children's Christmas Party at 11.30am – 1pm (ish) in the hall. Entertainment will be provided for each Shin-Dig. **Grown-ups** - tickets £10pp – please put in an envelope with your name – or names on it and give to any of the people listed below. **Growing-ups** – no charge. If anyone would like to donate a prize for our Grown-ups raffle OR a wee gift for our children's party on Sunday morning please contact Jacquie George, Johnny Bhoy McDade, Fr Nick or Fr Seán. **CLOSING DATE FOR NAMES OF CHILDREN ATTENDING CHRISTMAS PARTY IS SUNDAY 8th DEC.**

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £1,181. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you.

St. Mark's	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</i>
VIGIL	78	£300	
SUNDAY	140	£401	

St. Marks's, Oxcgangs 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 Baruch [5:1-9]

'God will show your splendour.'

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God: 'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look towards the east and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R3]

Response: What great deeds the LORD worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

When the LORD brought back the exiles of Sion,
we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy.

Then they said among the nations,
'What great deeds the LORD worked for them!'
What great deeds the LORD worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.

Bring back our exiles, O LORD,
as streams in the Negeb.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves.

Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Philippians [1:3-6, 8-11]

'Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.'

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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Alleluia, alleluia

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [3:1-6]

'All flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

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