

# ST. MARK'S PARISH

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C**

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## **MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>James Jervis (Ann)</b>
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Sharleen Estelle Montilla (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Bee Martin (Ann)</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Christmas Card Novena of Masses</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Christmas Card Novena of Masses</b>
<i>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<b>Christmas Card Novena of Masses</b>
<i>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<b>Christmas Card Novena of Masses</b>
<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			

### **HAPPY EVER AFTER?**

Today is known as Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday, and St Paul is quite insistent that we should know what we are doing: I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord! Happy is a strange word. Some people think they are happy but they're really only content. To be content means that we put up with something without complaining too much because we know things could be a lot worse. So we're content with our lot. Some people think they are happy but they're really only pleased. Something has happened that has given them a bit of a fillip. Perhaps their football team has won an unexpected victory. But it's hardly ecstasy! Some people think they are happy but they're really only in a good mood. Maybe they've been out to celebrate passing an exam or celebrating someone's birthday and they've had a lovely evening. But tomorrow this will only be a memory. Content, pleased, glad, cheerful, jovial, merry...all of this is good but it's not actually the same as happiness. To be happy means to be blessed. And to know that you are blessed makes you happy. Really happy.



So at the root of happiness for a Christian is the knowledge that we are made in God's image, loved by him and held in that love every moment of our being. Although we stray from this image of God we are constantly called back to the joy of our relationship with God and are redeemed through Christ's death and resurrection. This is the greatest blessing we could wish for: to belong to God. Pleasure is a fleeting thing. We can feel it today but it can desert us tomorrow. But Christian happiness is full of more than pleasure; it's coated with joy. And such happiness and joy can never be taken away from us, even though at times our vision of them may seem clouded. As we continue our Advent journey Paul advises us to be happy, for our God is very near and is coming to set us free. This deep-down happiness at the approach of our God is something that doesn't waver with every gust of the wind because it is at the heart of our loving relationship with God. In fact it's a real blessing.

# 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.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** and Advent Candles are now on sale at the back of the church for anyone thinking of sending Christmas wishes to a friend, family or loved ones at this very special time of the year. This year we have designed and printed two Christmas cards (with a bonus) specific to St Mark's and to whomever these cards are sent - their names can be written on slips provided in the card and then these slips can be put into the box provided on table beside cards. These names will then be included in a novena of Masses from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec through to Wednesday Dec 25<sup>th</sup>.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025** is now available at the back of the church priced at £3 each.

**MASS FOR THE OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR:** Archbishop Cushley will solemnly open the Jubilee Year 2025 for the Archdiocese with Holy Mass and the blessing of the Jubilee Cross at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, at midday on Sunday 29 December. Follow 'Holy Year Scotland 2025' on Facebook and visit [www.iubilaeum2025.va](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va) for more details about this special year.

**CHARITY FUNDRAISING:** December 100 club draw results and prizes are: 1<sup>st</sup>: **Tony Hetherington** £30. 2<sup>nd</sup>: **Tony Flynn** £10 and 3<sup>rd</sup>: **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 15<sup>th</sup> and it will resume again starting on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2025.

<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>78</i>	<i>£320</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>£451</i>	

St. Marks's, Oxbgangs 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 book of Zephaniah [3:14-18a]**

*The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.*

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgements against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

‘Fear not, O Sion;

let not your hands grow weak.

The LORD your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.’

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### **Responsorial Psalm [Is 12:2-3, 4b-d, 5-6, ±3]**

*The rejoicing of a redeemed people*

***Response: Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.***

Behold, God is my salvation!

I will trust, and will not be afraid;

for the LORD is my strength and my praise,

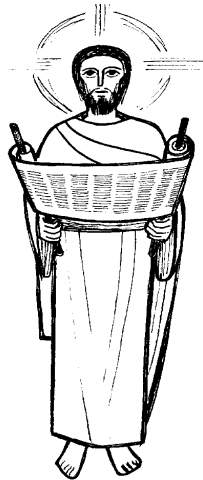
and he has been my salvation.

With joy you will draw water  
from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;  
make known among the peoples his deeds;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders;  
let this be known through all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.



### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians [4:4-**

**7]** *The Lord is at hand.*

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,**

**he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.**

**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [3:10-18]**

*And we, what shall we do?*

At that time: The crowds asked John, ‘What, then, shall we do?’ And he answered them, ‘Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.’ Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, ‘Teacher, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Collect no more than you are authorized to do.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, ‘I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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