

# ST. MARK'S PARISH

## 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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### MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November Vigil	5:00pm	Nellie & John Wright (Ann)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	10:00am	Moyra Whelan (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ann)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	10:00am	Ida Boron (Sp Int)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	10:00am	Sharleen Estelle Montilla (Sp Int)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00am	Deceased Members of the Kelleher Family (RIP)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00am	Ginette Berard (Sp Int)
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December Vigil	5:00pm	Torres LLano family (RIP)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00am	Julia Armit (Ann)
<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>EUCARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm		

### WAITING HOPING TRUSTING

We're in the middle of two Advents. One has already happened 2,000 years ago when God came among us as a baby in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The second one is still to happen in the future when Christ will return and human history will come to an end. Today's liturgy concentrates on this future coming. Advent reminds us that this is what we are waiting for.



Every week in our Creed we speak of Jesus coming again to judge the living and the dead; and we talk about looking forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Advent reminds us that there is more to life than what we see with our eyes and hear with our ears. A promise of everlasting life is on offer. Advent is about maturing slowly, about allowing God's Spirit to form and mould us so we're ready for when He comes again.

In Advent, we also hope. If we celebrate Advent properly then we feel a sense of great longing. We find ourselves yearning for Christ to come again and to set up his everlasting kingdom where we shall see God face to face and enjoy the unending happiness of heaven forever more. Advent hope sustains us amid all the comings and goings of a society intent on having and getting, one that mistakes pleasure for joy, consuming for concern and enjoyment for bliss. But Christians wait in joyful hope for Christ to return.

In Advent, Christians recognise their trust and dependence on God. It's not all down to us. It is only God who can unlock the gates of heaven for us – no one else. Will we be around when Christ comes back again, or will we see God face to face when we die? The chances are the latter. But because we are held in the palm of God's hand, we await his coming in joyful hope. And our Advent cry is: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

## 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>.

**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. 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 Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2024/2025** for children who are not attending a Catholic school and would like to enrol for the Sacraments of **Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation** in **2025**, please contact the Parish Office via email or phone and request an application form. The Schedule of events for each of the upcoming sacraments is posted on the notice board at the back of the church. **Closing date** for applications for First Confessions and First Holy Communion is Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. **Closing date** for applications for Confirmation is Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 2025.

**ST MARKS CHRISTMAS PARTY Grown-ups** - Join us on Saturday evening **December 14<sup>th</sup>** at 6.30pm in the hall for a wee social gathering over a Hot Buffet. **Growing-ups** - Join us on Sunday morning **December 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 8<sup>th</sup> DEC.**

**SECOND COLLECTION:** in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you.

<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>46</i>	<i>£189</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>£421</i>	

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah [33:14-16]

*I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.*

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to spring for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14]

*Response: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

O LORD, make me know your ways.  
Teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;  
for you are the God of my salvation.

Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he shows the way to sinners.  
He guides the humble in right judgement;  
to the humble he teaches his way.

All the LORD's paths are mercy and  
faithfulness,  
for those who keeps his covenant and commands.  
The LORD's secret is for those who fear him;  
to them he reveals his covenant.



### Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians [3:12-4:2]

*May the Lord establish your hearts for the coming of Christ*

Brothers and sisters:

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Finally, then, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

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**Alleluia, alleluia**

**Show us, O LORD, your mercy,  
and grant us your salvation.**

**Alleluia**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [21:25-28. 34-36]

*Your redemption is drawing near*

At that time:

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in sun and moon and Stars and on earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. 'But watch yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

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