

ST. MARK'S PARISH

5th JANUARY 2025 – EPIPHANY Year C

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

Parish Office: 29 Oxcgangs Avenue., Edinburgh, EH13 9HX Ph: 0131 441 3915

Email: stmarksoxcgangs@gmail.com

Website: stmarksrchurch-edinburgh.org.uk

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 4 th January	Vigil	5:00pm	Tommy Corr (Sp Int)
Sunday 5 th January		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 6 th January		10:00am	Ida Boron (Sp Int)
Tuesday 7 th January		10:00am	John Burns (Sp Int)
Thursday 9 th January		10:00am	Sheila Duffy (Ann)
Friday 10 th January		10:00am	Sarah Corr (Sp Int)
Saturday 11 th January	Vigil	5:00pm	Gordon McGhee (Ann)
Sunday 12 th January		10:00am	People of the Parish
<p>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.</p> <p>EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm</p>			

NOT OVER YET

All that preparation for Christmas and only ten days later it seems so far away. But the Church recognises Christmas as a season, not just a bank holiday. And we have two echoes of the Christmas event that keep it alive in our hearts and minds: Epiphany (today) and the Presentation of the Lord (in about a month's time).



The word epiphany is a most uncommon one. What it actually means is a manifestation or a showing. It recalls the day when the glory of God was made visible and accessible through the birth of the child Jesus. The wise men, coming from virtually the edges of the then-known world, represent the fact that the glory of God has been revealed to every corner of the globe: from the Great River Jordan to the end of earth's bounds, as today's psalm tells us. Epiphany is about everybody, everywhere and of every time. No one has a monopoly on God and Christ did not come for some sort of elite group but for every single human being of all time. The three wise men came to do homage to Jesus because they felt he was special to them and to their people. Even people who have no evident outward religious expression often indicate that the simple message of Christmas is one that still appeals to the human heart. In fact, St Leo the Great was fond of saying that there can be no strangers at Christmas because God has graced us all, saints and sinners, with the gift of his own Son.

But the Epiphany does not leave us simply looking at the past. It coaxes us to change and renewal in our daily lives and to make a difference for the future. If we celebrate the Epiphany as the making visible of God's gift of true humanity in the person of his Son, then we are also agreeing to be "epiphanies" ourselves, to be thankful people who never cease praising God for his many gifts and who show God's graceful presence in our world by the way we ourselves live. Christmas may have come and gone, but Epiphany reminds us that it's not over yet. We still have a lot to do

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sienna Baiano, daughter of Fabrizio & Melissa, who was baptised in St Mark's church last Sunday. We welcome her as a child of God into our parish.

SCHOOL RETURN: please pray for all those involved in our schools. May God bless their efforts as they start a new term.

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. Best wishes for 2024.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS Fr. Seán & Fr. Nick would like to express their sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make our celebration of Christmas such a holy, sacred and special occasion. Your efforts are very much appreciated by everyone. Thank you also for the many lovely cards, gifts and the great kindness expressed to us both this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. May God bless you all and a very happy New Year.

REMINDER to parents of all children making **First Confessions**, **First Holy Communions** or **Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held on Sunday 4th February during 10am Mass. All application forms must be received prior to this. A meeting of parents of children making their first Confession is set for January 20th @7pm in the church hall. A meeting of parents of children making their First Holy Communion is set for January 27th @7pm in the church hall and for parents of children making their Confirmation February 17th @7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all over these coming weeks.

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

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend 4/5 Jan. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you.



*On behalf of Fr. Nick and
would like to take this
wish you and your families a
Joyous & Prosperous New Year.
May God bless*



*myself, I
opportunity to
very Blessed,
you all.*

St. Mark's	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible
VIGIL	63	£264	
SUNDAY	125	£418	

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 Isaiah [60:1-6]

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all round, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13. ±cf. 11]

Response: All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth.

The kings of Tarshish and the islands
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

[3:2-3a.5-6] *It has now been revealed that the Gentiles are fellow heirs of the promise.*

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel

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Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star when it rose

and have come to worship the Lord.

Alleluia.

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [2:1-12]

We have come from the east to worship the king.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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