

ST. MARK'S PARISH

9th February 2025 – 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time 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 8 th February	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 9 th February		10:00am	Annam Vareed (Ann)
Monday 10 th February		10:00am	Special Intention
Tuesday 11 th February		10:00am	Aileen Traynor (Ann)
Thursday 13 th February		10:00am	Bernard Martin (Ann)
Friday 14 th February		10:00am	Catherine McInness (Sp Int)
Saturday 15 th February	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 16 th February		10:00am	Teddy Lumanglas (Ann)
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			

DEEPER WATER

We all like to feel comfortable and we all have our own little ways of doing things that we've got used to. That's because by nature we're creatures of habit. We don't like to be put out or troubled by having to learn new ways. We like a quiet life.



Religious people sometimes use their faith in the same way. It becomes a comfort and a crutch, a way of doing things that makes them feel secure and unthreatened. Faith becomes the spiritual insurance policy that guarantees peace of mind. But at the heart of faith is risk. Faith involves making that leap, walking along the path with no signs, trusting when you know that everything could go wrong. Faith is an invitation not to remain where we are but to seek ever new and more enriching pastures, to stretch ourselves, to be challenged in ways that we cannot even suspect but which will carry their own rewards. Christian faith, in particular, is not an anaesthetic but an adventure. In today's gospel we see Jesus telling Simon Peter to put out the boats into deeper water. And, sure enough, having fished all night long and caught nothing, it was when the disciples obeyed Jesus' request to put out into deeper water that they not only caught fish but netted a catch that astounded them.

The deeper the water the more uncomfortable people feel, because you can't touch the bottom. But the deeper the water the greater the catch. Our sluggishness encourages us to remain static in faith. We're content to catch fish when Jesus promises us that we could be catching people, encouraging men and women to come to Christ. We're prepared to do the basic minimum in our faith, to enjoy the view close to the shore, when Jesus promises us a magnificent experience on the high seas. Today's liturgy challenges us to be bolder in our relationship with God and with others, to grow in faith and trust, to move to areas in our lives that are as yet uncharted. Yes, we're bound to have doubts about our safety. But God does not promise us a calm passage...just a safe landing.

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.

ST. MARK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL are collecting blue tokens in the Tesco community fundraising boxes found at the store entrance for an urgently needed school library. Please can you help us by popping tokens in when you shop at the Oxcgangs store or local Tesco Express stores, until April? Thank you!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 11AM. This year the service has been prepared by the ladies of the Cook Islands. The service will take place at St Fillans Episcopal Church, 8 Buckstone Drive, EH10 6PD. It is a beautiful service and a great opportunity to come together with the local churches and pray together.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK If you know of a forthcoming visit to hospital involving a serious illness or an operation and you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please speak to Fr Seán and arrange to be anointed before admission. Once in hospital, if you wish the Sacraments [Holy Communion, Confession, Anointing] please ensure that you make your wishes known to the hospital chaplaincy through the charge nurse on the ward. Please do not leave your request to the last minute as you may not be guaranteed an immediate response.

REMINDER to parents of all children making **First Confessions, First Holy Communion** or **Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held on Sunday 2nd March during 10am Mass. All application forms must be received prior to this. A meeting for parents of children making their Confirmation is set for February 17th @7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all then. 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 2024/25, please contact the Parish Office via email or phone and request an application form.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: February 100 club draw results and prizes are: 1st: #31 Colin Armit £30. 2nd: #21 Maureen Hope £10 and 3rd: #39 Pat McBean £10. Congratulations to you all.

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £1,655. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you.

THANK YOU to all those from St Mark's who so effectively publicised the Concert by Candlelight for Mary's Meals at St Peter's and to all those who attended. It was an outstanding success and you will be pleased to learn it has already raised over £4,000.

<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>77</i>	<i>£399</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>£319</i>	

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 [6:1-2a, 3-8]

Here I am, send me.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!’

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.’ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 138(137):1-2a, 2bc, 3, 4-5, 7c-8, ±1c]

Response: In the presence of the angels I praise you, O Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple.

I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul.

All earth’s kings shall thank you, O Lord,
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
‘How great is the glory of the Lord!’

With your right hand you save me;
the Lord will accomplish this for me.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [15:1-11] *So we preach and so you believed.*

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unworthy to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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Alleluia, alleluia.

**Follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of men.
Alleluia.**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [5:1-11]

They left everything and followed him.

At that time: The crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God. He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’ And Simon answered, ‘Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.’ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.’ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

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