

ST. MARK'S PARISH

16th February 2025 – 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 15th February	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 16th February		10:00am	Teddy Lumanglas (Ann)
Monday 17th February		10:00am	Charles & Susanne Keller de Schleithiem
Tuesday 18th February		10:00am	William Forker (Ann)
Thursday 20th February		10:00am	Fr Nicholas Hodgson (Sp Int)
Friday 21st February		10:00am	George Milne (RIP)
<i>Saturday 22nd February</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Jim Caulfield (RIP)</i>
<i>Sunday 23rd February</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
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			

FINDING THE BALANCE

Most evangelising groups claim to believe in the bible. Some knock on doors, others stand on street corners asking if you read the bible or they quote heavy scriptural texts. They take words of scripture as their benchmark and proofs of what they are teaching. Problems arise though when we have to decide on how we interpret the words of the Bible - do we take them literally, morally, Allegorically or Anagogically. And that's where the rub is. There can be no doubt that the type of poverty which crushes people, prevents them from having access to the ordinary means of existence - leading to social conditions which marginalise people and keep them from being part of mainstream society was not the one favoured by Christ.

For example; His words in our gospel today "Happy are you who are poor" and "Alas for you who are rich". Do we treat it literally and say that only people who live in material poverty can be truly happy? Are all rich people in for a shock? Or do we interpret it to mean that he is talking about spiritual poverty which thus adheres to his central message of living a full life, about releasing people and restoring them to their true dignity.

And since poverty is a relative thing and is conditioned partly by the part of the globe we happen to have been born in, he must have had something deeper in mind.

Am I exercising poverty if I do without my gin and tonic while others die of hunger? Or do I have to give everything away? Am I living the gospel precept of poverty if I become detached from whatever keeps me from serving God? Should I start to worry if I find that I seem to have landed on my feet? What does it mean to be poor? How poor am I and should I be happy about it?



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 Oxgangs 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.

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.

Lent & Easter issues of My Day by Day booklets are now available at the back of the church.

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 18/3/2024 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

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.

COPPERS WEIGHING YOU DOWN? You can put them in our Copper Jar at the back of the church in aid of the building fund. All donations are gratefully received.

SECOND COLLECTION Next weekend 22/23 Feb in aid of the Archdiocesan Aged & Infirm Clergy Retirement Fund.

<i>St. Mark's</i>	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</i>
VIGIL	63	£251	
SUNDAY	122	£372	

St. Marks's, Oxgangs 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 Jeremiah [17:5-8]

Cursed is the man who trusts in man; blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord.

Thus says the Lord: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

'Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.'

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Responsorial Psalm 40(39 [Ps 1:1-2. 3. 4. 6. r5a])

Response: Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Blessed indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the path with sinners,
nor abides in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord,
and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season,
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they, like winnowed chaff,
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [15:12. 16-20]

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.

Brothers and Sisters: If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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Alleluia, alleluia.

**Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord,
for behold, your reward is great in heaven.**

Alleluia.

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [6:17. 20-26]

Blessed are you who are poor. Woe to you who are rich.

At that time: Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

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