

ST. MARK'S PARISH

29th December 2024 – THE HOLY FAMILY Year C

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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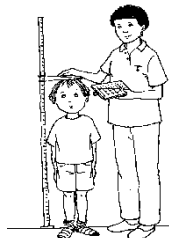
Website: stmarksrchurch-edinburgh.org.uk

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 28th December	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 29th December		10:00am	William Lighthouse (Ann)
Monday 30th December		10:00am	Rev Mgr Dr Gerard McKay (Ann)
Tuesday 31st December		10:00am	FUNERAL GEORGE LYNCH
Wednesday 1st January		10:00am	Sarah Parferey (Ann)
Thursday 2nd January			NO MASS
Friday 3rd January			NO MASS
<i>Saturday 4th January</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Tommy Corr (Sp Int)</i>
<i>Sunday 5th January</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.			
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

GROWING UP

Most parents can sympathise with Joseph and Mary’s frustration when they found Jesus in the Temple. He couldn’t see what all the fuss was about and his answer to them was infuriating. On this feast of the Holy Family, we are told that Jesus went back to live with them in Nazareth. St Luke packs years into one concise sentence: Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God and men. And it’s the role of any family to promote this sort of growth for their children. **He grew in wisdom** tells us that Jesus grew mentally. When he was found in the Temple he was listening to the teachers of the law. He was putting himself in a position where he could learn; he was having his mind stretched and was asking questions. How much do we encourage our own children to grow mentally, or are we content for them to be seen and not heard? **He grew in stature.** This seems absolutely obvious, doesn’t it? But maybe it points to something that our society has lost sight of in a culture of couch potatoes and obesity. Do our family lifestyles encourage physical growth or are we content to be ruled by those who own fast food joints and make computer games? **He grew in favour with God.** Jesus still needed to grow spiritually. It seems clear that he had to take responsibility for his mission and his decisions at various crucial points in his life, and he had to keep his relationship with the Father alive. How would we gauge the spiritual climate of our family? **He grew in favour with men.** Social skills are among the most important things we learn. Jesus appears to have been at ease in anyone’s company and proved himself accessible to people of all sorts. Is conversation and sociability a hallmark of our family life? It’s not easy being part of a family. It wasn’t for Jesus, Mary and Joseph. But their child grew in wisdom, stature and favour with God and men. What about yours?



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.

RIP Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of George Lynch who was recently reborn into eternal Life. His Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 31st December at 10am in St. Mark’s and thereafter to Mortonhall Crematorium (Pentland Chapel) for 11.30am. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gabriel Cullis, son of Paul & Nicola, who was baptised in St Mark’s church last Sunday. We welcome him as a child of God into our parish.

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 Communion** 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 Next 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.*

<i>St. Mark’s</i>	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God’s church would not be possible</i>
<i>VIGIL</i>	70 <i>Christmas 310</i>	£350 ?	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	160 <i>Christmas 180</i>	£597 ?	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First reading [1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28]

'Samuel, as long as he lives, is lent to the Lord.'

'In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.'

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.'

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.' And he worshipped the LORD there.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 84(83):2-3, 5-6, 9-10. Rcf. 5a]

Response: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

Blessed the people whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways.

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
look on the face of your anointed.



Second Reading:[1 John 3:1-2, 21-24]

'We are called children of God; and so we are.'

'Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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Alleluia, alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [2:41-52]

Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the teachers.

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

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