

## ST. MARK'S PARISH

### 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year C

*Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson*

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

Email: *stmarksoxgangs@gmail.com*

Website: *stmarksrccchurch-edinburgh.org.uk*

#### **MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Mary Winter (Ann)</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Fr Nicholas (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Audrey Cormack (Degnin) (RIP)</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>John Martin (Sp Int)</b>
<i>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Patricia Nkiruka (Sp Int)</i>
<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>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am			

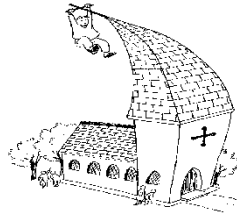
#### **HANGING ON**

There's an air of anxiety in our scripture readings today. God tells Abram of his many descendants and territories. But Abram is still worried about the future and God has to reassure him and keep him persevering in faith.

The same is true with Peter, James and John. Jesus gives them a real boost to their faith by letting them see him being transfigured on the mountain top, talking with Moses and Elijah...a sure sign that he is from God. Both Abram and Peter are privileged to be in the presence of God, yet they are worried about the road ahead and whether or not they will really see things through.

No matter how strong our faith is, we still have moments when we wonder what it's all about, whether we can cope with present difficulties and how we will match up to the demands of the future. Of course, that's what faith is all about. If faith were a manual of answers, an instruction book that couldn't fail, then it would no longer be faith.

But as we go through life we come across people and events that strengthen our faith. It seems that when everything is rumbling on in a mundane way, we suddenly are given a glimpse of what lies beyond. These mountain-top experiences boost our faith because they redirect our hope and recharge our enthusiasm. Last week we began Lent by looking at the temptations that lie in wait for us as we try to follow Christ. This week we are given a shot in the arm as we glimpse something of the glory of Jesus in the Transfiguration. So Lent isn't just about sin. It's also about faith, promise, perseverance, hope, dreams, compassion, trust, reconciliation and renewal. Have a Happy Lent!



## 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.

**12 VOLUNTEERS** are being sought to participate in our Easter Triduum celebration for the Vigil Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (April 17<sup>th</sup>) to have their feet washed. A Sign-up sheet is available at the back of the church for anyone interested.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held every Monday evening during Lent at 7:00pm in St. Mark's, beginning on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** typically held on the first Thursday of the month from 7pm to 8pm will no longer take place.

**CHARITY FUNDRAISING:** March 100 club draw results and prizes are: **1<sup>st</sup>:** #27 Ann Tobin £30. **2<sup>nd</sup>:** #12 Peter Matulaitis £10 and **3<sup>rd</sup>:** #39 Pat McBean £10. Congratulations to you all.

**SCIAF – LENTEN Wee BOXES** are now available at the back of the church. For those interested in participating in this charitable cause, please take one home and return it on Palm Sunday.

**ST. MARK'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2024/25** The names of all children registered for the Sacraments of First Confessions, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are posted on our notice board. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive these sacraments in the coming months. Parents should make sure that their children's names are on the list. **If your child's name is not on the list, please contact Fr. Seán as soon as possible.**

**NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2025-26** are now available at the back of the Church for those who have pledged to Gift Aid their donations. If your circumstances have changed such that you are no longer eligible to Gift Aid your donations (eg no longer paying income tax or if your address has changed), then please speak to Fr Seán or any of the Gift Aid Organisers, Katy Burns, Carol Lonie and Paul Drury. Your Gift Aid donations provide an extra, much needed source of income for St Mark's as they allow us to claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated. If you pay income tax and have not yet signed up to Gift Aid your donations, please do. Thank you for your continued support of the Parish throughout the year.

**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 those who practice their faith here at St. Mark's. All help is greatly appreciated by everyone - both in heaven and on earth. Tuesday 25/3/2025 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

<i>St. Mark's</i>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<b>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</b>
<b>VIGIL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>£348</b>	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>£452</b>	

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading: A reading from the book of Genesis [15:5-12. 17-18]**

*God enters into a covenant with Abram, the man of faith.*

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

And he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

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### **Responsorial Psalm [Ps 27(26):1. 7-8b. 8c-9c. 13-14. R1a]**

*Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread?

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer me.  
Of you my heart has spoken,  
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.  
Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help.

I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong;  
be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!



### **Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians**

**[3:17-4:1]** *Christ will configure us to his glorious body.*

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

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**Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.**

**From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:**

**'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.**

**Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.**

### **Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [9:28b-36]**

*'As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face was altered.'*

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

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