

ST. MARK'S PARISH

11th January 2026 Baptism of the Lord Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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

Email: office.stmarksedinburgh@staned.org.uk

Website: stmarksrccchurch-edinburgh.org.uk

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 10th January	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 11th January		10:00am	Ewa Lechatellier (Sp Int)
Monday 12th January		10:00am	Thomas Sheridan (Ann)
Tuesday 13th January		10:00am	Alan Kelly (Sp Int)
Thursday 15th January		10:00am	Jacques & Myrna Desire (Sp Int)
Friday 16th January		10:00am	Fr Bogoslaw (Sp Int)
<i>Saturday 17th January</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 18th January</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Bill Lightheart (Ann)</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			

A PERSONAL RELIGION??

Life seems to become more and more privatised as the days go by. For whatever reason, we don't see many children playing games together in our streets or our parks. Buses and trains are full of people who don't talk to each other because they sit listening to music or scrolling through their phones. Teenagers are said to spend many hours a week by themselves in their bedrooms on the computer. And families claim that life is so frenetic that they have to make a special effort to eat together once a week. Of course, there are some people whose religion is exactly the same. It's about them and God, about them getting holy and going to heaven. If others can do the same, all well and good; but they don't actually affect them in any way. These are the sort of people who prefer a "private" wedding or a "private" funeral. After all, it's about them, not the rest of the parish. Or is it? The feast of the Baptism of the Lord turns all of this on its head. For it reminds us that at our own baptism we were anointed by the priest with the holy Oil of Chrism so that we could become "priests... prophets...and kings (or queens)." To be a priest means that we offer every moment of our lives to God that they may become sanctified. To be a prophet means that by our words and actions we are to speak out to our world as spokesmen and women. We are to say what God wants the world to hear. To be a king or queen means to accept responsibility for our world as well as for the kingdom of God. The world we have been given is on loan to us; we are to watch over it, to protect it and hand it on to the next generation in even better condition. Our religion is the expression of our baptism. We are baptised into a living, believing community that worships collectively, that publicly makes its stand for the power of God's word in our world and is ready to come to the aid of those whose human dignity is under threat. That's because our baptism calls us to be "other Christs" in our world. Far from being a private hobby it is a reminder that our vocation is to be part of the ever-advancing People of God. And if we're to be part of a people, then we need others.



PARISH NEWS

WELCOME If you are just visiting our parish today, a regular attendee or if this is the first time you have been to Mass for a while, we welcome you to our humble parish and hope our time together unites us all in God's love. Please, feel free to take a newsletter home with you.

Thank You to everyone involved in welcoming parishioners, preparing hymn books, helping with the offertory collection, flower arranging, money counters, readers and our musicians. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by all who practice their faith here at St. Marks and are major contributors to the joyful, prayerful and friendly experience shared by all who join us for Mass every week.

CHILDRENS LITURGY: during Sunday morning Mass will resume again this Sunday Jan 11th, 2026.

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

Jan, Feb & Mar issues of Living Faith booklets are now available at the back of the church.

REMINDER to parents of all children making **First Confessions, First Holy Communions or Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held on Sunday 1st March 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 19th @7pm in the church hall. A meeting of parents of children making their First Holy Communion is set for February 2nd @7pm in the church hall and for parents of children making their Confirmation February 23rd @7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all over these coming weeks.

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 20/1/2026 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: The winners for our January draw are: **1st: #54 Carol Lonie £40. 2nd: #21 Maureen Hope £15 and 3rd: #75 Tom Sanaghan** Surprise Gift. Congratulations to you all. Additionally, each of the Charities that we fund raise for, Mary's Meals and SCIAF have recently been sent a cheque for £573.50 which is the sum total raised by our Charity Fundraising group throughout 2025. Thank you to everyone involved in this very charitable endeavour.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend (17/18 Jan) in aid of Justice & Peace. A collection box will be made available at the back of the church for anyone who would like to make a donation to this very charitable cause.

<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>65</i>	<i>£271</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>£397</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [42:1-4, 6-7]

Behold my servant, in whom my soul delights.

Thus says the Lord: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. 'I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

Texts from the ESI¹-CE, published by Asian Trading Corp. © 2017 Crossway - published in the UK by SPCK Publishing. Psalms and Canticles from Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB. Reprinted with permission.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 29(28): 1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10. ±11b]

Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly powers,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
bow down before the LORD, majestic in holiness.

The voice of the LORD upon the waters,
the LORD on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the LORD full of power;
the voice of the LORD full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders;
in his temple they all cry, 'Glory!'
The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits as king for ever.



Second Reading: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles [10:34-38]

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'

Texts from the ESI¹-CE, published by Asian Trading Corp. © 2017 Crossway - published in the UK by SPCK Publishing. Psalms and Canticles from Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB. Reprinted with permission.

Alleluia, alleluia.

**The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:
'This is my Beloved Son; Listen to him.'**

Alleluia.

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [3:13-17]

When Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming to rest on him.

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

Texts from the ESI¹-CE, published by Asian Trading Corp. © 2017 Crossway - published in the UK by SPCK Publishing. Psalms and Canticles from Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB. Reprinted with permission.