

ST. MARK'S PARISH

12th July 2026 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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

Email: office.stmarksedinburgh@staned.org.uk

Website: stmarksrcchurch-edinburgh.org.uk

MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 11th July	Vigil	5:00pm	Catherine McInnes (SpInt)
Sunday 12th July		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 13th July		10:00am	McDonald Family (SpInt)
Tuesday 14th July		10:00am	24th wedding Anniversary
Thursday 16th July		10:00am	Alan Kelly (SpInt)
Friday 17th July		10:00am	James Dudgeon
<i>Saturday 18th July</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>John Duffy (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 19th July</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

SPREAD THE WORD

We all know the parable of the Sower. A farmer sows seed on his land; it falls onto four different types of soil, and it produces anything from no crops at all to a field full of harvest.

The seed, which is the word of God, falls onto the ground in four different scenarios:

1. the seed can fall on the side of the path where it is eaten by the birds – depicting a situation where one hears but fails to understand the word;
2. the seed can fall on rocky soil – depicting a situation where there is no depth of commitment to the word and so its impact withers;
3. the seed can fall among thorns – depicting a situation where other concerns and situations can distract us from allowing the word to affect our lives;
4. and finally, the seed can fall on rich soil – depicting a situation where the presence of God's word is understood, cherished and acted upon allowing it to bear significant fruit in our lives.

The Gospel Parables always invite the listener to actively place themselves within the context of the story being told. We are asked to judge for ourselves which scenario best fits our willingness to listen to, receive, comprehend and spread the word of God. We are made aware of the immense power of God's word through Isaiah in our First Reading. It notes that just as the rain renews and refreshes nature, so too the word of God has its place within the story of humankind. We learn that the word of God is as creative and productive as the rain – that it has the power to affirm, to give life and to generate salvation. May the Lord free us from all that impedes the creative power of his word in our lives and our world



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 to read.

RIP Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Baby Jack Alexander Foye who was recently born into eternal life. His funeral was held last Tuesday. Please keep wee Jack and his family in your prayers. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS to Obialinamma Golibenachi Akwuobi, daughter of Anthony and Chinwendu Akwuobi who was baptised in St Mark's church last weekend. We welcome her into our parish.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: July 100 club draw results and prizes are: 1st: #62 Angela Ramsay £40. 2nd: #52 Helen McFadyen £15 and 3rd: #28 William Dunn Surprise Gift. Congratulations to you all. That is our last draw until the October when we will begin again.

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.

HOLIDAYS for those who are going away, have a wonderful time, for those who are visiting, welcome, we hope you enjoy your stay and for everyone travelling, have a safe journey.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM If you wish to have your child baptised, please arrange an appointment with Fr. Seán or Fr. Nick either after Mass, by calling the parish office or sending an email to the email address listed on front page.

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 very much appreciated by many a parishioner.

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.

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £1,015. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you.

<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>	80	£342	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	115	£343	

St. Marks's, Oxbgangs 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 [55:10-11]

The rain makes the earth bring forth and sprout.

Thus says the Lord:

‘For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 65(64):10a-d. 10e-11. 12-13. 14. R. Luke 8:8]

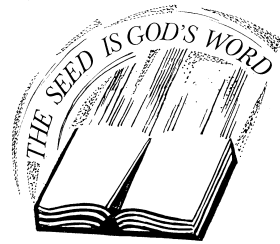
Response: Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

You visit the earth, give it water;
you fill it with riches.
God’s ever-flowing river brims over
to prepare the grain.

And thus you prepare it:
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty.
Abundance flows in your pathways;
in pastures of the desert it flows.
The hills are girded with joy.

The meadows clothed with flocks.
The valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy; yes, they sing!



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [8:18-23]

The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Brothers and Sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
all who find him will live for ever.**

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [13:1-23]

A sower went out to sow.

At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.’

Then the disciples came and said to him, ‘Why do you speak to them in parables?’ And he answered them, ‘To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

‘Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

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