

# ST. MARK'S PARISH

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

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

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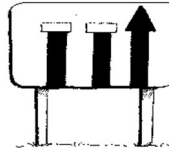
**MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Matteo Pernigotti &amp; Elisa Rago</b>
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>S.P.R.E.A.D. Family (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Rafael Boron (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Anne Wynn (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Rose Kelly (Ann)</b>
<i>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Jimmy Jervis (RIP)</i>
<i>Sunday 28<sup>st</sup> January</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</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>EUCARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

## REPENTANCE

The very first words of Jesus recorded by St Mark are “The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.”

Jesus’ whole life would turn out to be an invitation to enter God’s kingdom through repentance. And the Good News was precisely that: we have a God who does not want to lose us but wants us to be happy with him now and forever. Our first problem is usually in believing that God really means what he says. We live in a society that encourages litigation. We are urged on to get our rightful due, to press for what we are entitled to and to live in a compensation world. Yet God laughs in the face of this. Who could claim the all-time record payout when it comes to compensation? God, of course! Yet God’s time is not spent getting his own back but looking at ways to forgive. But God’s forgiveness is not automatic; it demands repentance. Repentance originally meant regret. But it’s not enough to regret our sins; we need also to take action to ensure that they don’t happen again. In the Old Testament, repentance included a physical action. Repentance for the Jewish people was like doing a U-turn and deciding to go in a different direction. In other words - having a change of mind with a fresh outlook on the way we behave. Conversion isn’t just a religious word. It meant to turn around, to transform and to return. Whatever way we choose to think about repentance, it is at the heart of the Christian gospel and it forms the basis of Christ’s preaching. Repentance means changing our mind about the way we behave and turning our lives around. If, like the people of Nineveh in the days of Jonah, we want to experience God’s forgiveness then we need to repent. For repentance is the hallmark of being a Christian. It’s something that never ends. We need to show it now. And tomorrow. And the next day.



# 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.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2023/2024** 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, please contact the Parish Office via email or phone and request an application form before Feb 4<sup>th</sup>.

**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 above listed email address. Please remember that at least one of the child’s parents should be a practicing Catholic as should one of the chosen Godparents/Sponsors.

**REMINDER** to parents of all children making **First Confessions**, **First Holy Communion** or **Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February during 10am Mass. All application forms must be received prior to this. A meeting of parents of children making their First Holy Communion is set for January 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7pm in the church hall and for parents of children making their Confirmation February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all over these coming weeks.

**Sr Miriam Ruth Ryan, RSM** will visit our Parish this weekend to give us a short talk on the Diploma in Catechetics run by the Archdiocese.

**SCIAF – LENTEN Wee BOXES** are now available at the back of the church for anyone interested in participating in this charitable cause beginning on Ash Wednesday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Please take one home and return it on Palm Sunday.

**SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend (21/01) in aid of Justice & Peace. There will be boxes at the back of the church for anyone wishing to donate to this cause.

**PPC MEETING** is scheduled for Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January @ 7pm. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

**WILLING HELPERS** The next day for group cleaning of the church will be Tuesday 16/01/2024 after the morning Mass. All help is appreciated if only for an hour. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon. Tea and biscuits afterwards!

<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>73</i>	<i>£250</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>£440</i>	

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 Jonah [3:1-5.10]

*The people of Nineveh renounce their evil behaviour.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

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### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 24:4-9]

*Response:* **Lord, make me know your ways.**

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

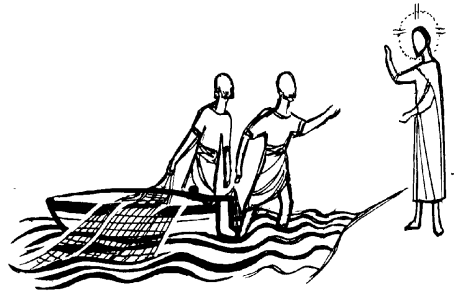
Make me walk in your truth, and  
teach me:

for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of  
old.

In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor.



### Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [7:29-31] *The world as we know it is passing away.*

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

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**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The kingdom of God is close at hand;  
believe the Good News  
Alleluia!**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [1:14-20]

*Repent, and believe the Good News*

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

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