

ST. MARK'S PARISH

4th February 2024 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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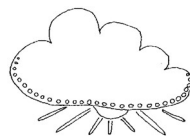
MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 3rd February	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 4th February		10:00am	Maureen McKay (RIP)
Monday 5th February		10:00am	Sr. Nan MacKinnon (Sp Int)
Tuesday 6th February		10:00am	Stefan Boron (Sp Int)
Thursday 8th February		10:00am	Ruth Wilkinson (RIP)
Friday 9th February		10:00am	Anne De Boucherville Baissac (RIP)
<i>Saturday 10th February</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Bernard Martin (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 11th February</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.			
EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

EVERY SILVER LINING HAS A CLOUD!

The worst thing you can do to someone who's depressed is to tell them to pull themselves together. They simply can't, because they don't see things the way we do and from their point of view all the positives seem to have vanished.

That's the mood that Job is in today in our scripture reading. He's suffering a restlessness: when it's night he longs for the dawn but when the new day comes he wishes it was night again. He's hopeless and helpless. It's easy to jump on the bandwagon of depression, although most of us just like a good moan and we occasionally end up feeling sorry for ourselves. We complain about the rise in food prices in the economic downturn but then we still spend our money on things that we don't really need or that don't do us any good. But imagine if you really did lose all hope and the future seemed bleak. Where would you turn? What would be the compass points of your existence that would guide you through the dark days? In today's gospel we hear that Jesus cured many people of mental illness who were brought to him by their family and friends. When everything else seemed to have failed they knew that he wouldn't let them down. "Casting out devils" meant healing mental disturbance and this was a large part of the healing ministry of Christ. Just because we believe in Jesus does not mean that we will never suffer from depression; in fact, depression is sometimes the only way a person can survive an awful experience. It's the mind's way of defending itself for a while. And it's not the case that Christians look at the world with rose-coloured glasses. We don't just see a wonderful world; we go through the same troughs as every other person. But faith gives a purpose to our suffering. It teaches us that whatever we undergo we are not alone. Besides any medical treatment that we might receive, we also know that Jesus himself has already taken on the deepest suffering possible and has overcome it. Being a Christian means being part of a community that cares, a community that sees the hurt of one person as affecting the whole Body of Christ, the Church. Look around you.



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. All application forms must be received prior to Feb 4th.

SECOND COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend 3/4 Feb 2024. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you.

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.

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 or Fr. Nick and arrange to be anointed before admission. Once in hospital, if you wish the Sacraments [Holy Communion, Confession, Anointing] please ensure that you make your wishes known to the hospital chaplaincy through the charge nurse on the ward. Please do not leave your request to the last minute as you may not be guaranteed an immediate response.

REMINDER to parents of all children making **First Confessions, First Holy Communions** or **Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held this Sunday 4th February during 10am Mass. All application forms must be received prior to this. A meeting for parents of children making their Confirmation is scheduled for February 5th @ 7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all then.

World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March 2024 This year St Mark's is hosting this Ecumenical service. It has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine. Please join us at **11am** for a short service followed by refreshments in the hall. More details are on the poster at the back of the church.

COPPERS WEIGHING YOU DOWN? You can put them in a jar at the back of the church in aid of the building fund. All donations are gratefully received.

<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>78</i>	<i>£248</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>£346</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 book of Job [7:1-4.6-7]

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

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Responsorial Psalm [146:1-6]

Response: **Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name.

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [9:16-19.22-23] *I should be punished if I did not preach the Gospel.*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me. So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,

Anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [1:29-39]

He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

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