

ST. MARK'S PARISH

11th February 2024 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 10 th February	Vigil	5:00pm	Bernard Martin (Ann)
Sunday 11 th February		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 12 th February		10:00am	Maura Scott (Sp Int)
Tuesday 13 th February		10:00am	Elizabeth Coyle (RIP)
ASH WEDNESDAY 14 th		10:00am	Cairns Family (Sp Int)
ASH WEDNESDAY 14 th		7:00pm	Patricia Stewart (RIP)
Thursday 15 th February		10:00am	James Park (Ann)
Friday 16 th February		10:00am	Ida Boron (Sp Int)
Saturday 17 th February	Vigil	5:00pm	William Forker
Sunday 18 th February		10:00am	Anthon Longmore (1 st Ann)
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 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

FEELING SUPERIOR

It's become fashionable to compare the modern-day diseases and illnesses with leprosy. They're not connected medically but they sometimes have the same effect on those who suffer them: they become isolated, shunned and in some cases looked down upon. Certainly lepers were despised at the time of Jesus. They were not allowed to live in the towns or to mix with other people. They carried a bell or made some noise when approaching people so that everyone had a chance to move away from them. They wore torn clothes and shielded their faces. And there was no way in which they were allowed to practise their religion like the rest of society. They were outcasts. When St Mark reports the curing of the leper in the first chapter of his gospel there is much more at stake than a simple healing of an individual. Mark is anxious to point out from the start that there is no such thing as a no-go area for Jesus, since he has come to offer salvation to all, irrespective of who they are. There are no people who are beyond the pale, no sinners who have committed such sins that they cannot hope for forgiveness, no people who don't qualify for the promises of God. So as well as looking at what happened to the leper we also have to keep in mind the effect on the crowd that witnessed the miracle. They would have been shocked that Jesus had anything to do with a man whom their law said was untouchable. And they would have been confused that a religious man, a rabbi, seemed to be acting against what their religion had taught them. Maybe today's gospel can teach us two things. The first is to ask ourselves whether we think that there are some people who are beyond forgiveness. Are there some crimes that merit permanent exclusion from society? Or maybe we are tempted to think that we ourselves have behaved in such a way that we do not deserve to have God bother about us any more? And the second thing is to be honest about the way we view other people. Our society loves to have its lepers because it makes us feel superior. We're not like them. We're clean & healthy.



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.

ASH WEDNESDAY This Wednesday, 14th February 2024, is Ash Wednesday and is a day of fast and abstinence marking the beginning of Lent. Ashes will be distributed at each of the Masses on that day. Please note the changes to usual Mass timetable.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held every Monday evening during Lent at 7:00pm in St. Mark's, beginning on Monday 19th Feb.

12 VOLUNTEERS are being sought to participate in our Easter Triduum celebration for the Vigil Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (March 28th) to have their feet washed. Sign-up sheets are available at the back of the church for anyone interested.

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.

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.

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 14th Please take one home and return it on Palm Sunday.

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.

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £1758.84. 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>	<i>66</i>	<i>£265.76</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>£569.86</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 Leviticus [13:1-2.44-46]

The leper must live apart: he must live outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, Unclean, unclean. As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

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Responsorial Psalm [31:1-2. 5. 11]

Response: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile.

But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of
my sin.

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [10:31 - 11:1] *Take me for your model, as I take Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

enlighten the eyes of our mind,

so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [1:40-45]

The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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