

ST. MARK'S PARISH

25th February 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Lent Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 24th February	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 25th February		10:00am	Annam Vareed (Ann)
Monday 26th February		10:00am	Maureen McKay (RIP)
Tuesday 27th February		10:00am	Marie Elizabeth Bougeard (SpInt)
Thursday 29th February		10:00am	Joy Fraser (RIP)
Friday 1st March		10:00am	John Hanlon (RIP)
<i>Saturday 2nd March</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Robert Fernandes (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 3rd March</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Mary Winter (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 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

HANGING ON

There's an air of anxiety in our scripture readings today. God tells Abram of his many descendants and territories. But Abram is still worried about the future and God has to reassure him and keep him persevering in faith.

The same is true with Peter, James and John. Jesus gives them a real boost to their faith by letting them see him being transfigured on the mountain top, talking with Moses and Elijah... a sure sign that he is from God. Both Abram and Peter are privileged to be in the presence of God, yet they are worried about the road ahead and whether or not they will really see things through.

No matter how strong our faith is, we still have moments when we wonder what it's all about, whether we can cope with present difficulties and how we will match up to the demands of the future. Of course, that's what faith is all about. If faith were a manual of answers, an instruction book that couldn't fail, then it would no longer be faith. But as we go through life we come across people and events that strengthen our faith. It seems that when everything is rumbling on in a mundane way we suddenly are given a glimpse of what lies beyond. These mountain-top experiences boost our faith because they redirect our hope and recharge our enthusiasm. Last week we began Lent by looking at the temptations that lie in wait for us as we try to follow Christ. This week we are given a shot in the arm as we glimpse something of the glory of Jesus in the Transfiguration. So Lent isn't just about sin. It's also about faith, promise, perseverance, hope, dreams, compassion, trust, reconciliation and renewal. Have a Happy Lent!



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.

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.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: December 100 club draw results and prizes are: **1st: #39 Pat McBean £30. 2nd: #35 Janet Wilson £10 and 3rd: #9 Peter Matulaitis £10.** Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 The names of all children registered for St. Mark's Sacramental Programme 2023/24 are posted on our notice board. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive these sacraments in the coming months. Parents should make sure that their children's names are on the list. **If your child's name is not on the list, please contact Fr. Seán or Fr. Nick as soon as possible.**

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK If you know of a forthcoming visit to hospital involving 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. 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.

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 appreciated by many a parishioner. Best wishes for 2024.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend 2 & 3 March. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. 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>65</i>	<i>£257</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>£484</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 Genesis [22:1-2.9-13.15-18]

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

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Responsorial Psalm [115:10. 15-19]

Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I will make:
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

[8:31-34] *God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

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Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:

'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!'

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [9:2-10]

This is my Son, the Beloved.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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