

# ST. MARK'S PARISH

## 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year B

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

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**MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Robert Fernandes (Ann)</b>
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Mary Winter (Ann)</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Sr. Helen McLaughlin Sp Int)</b>
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Kathleen McDade (Ann)</b>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>John Pettigrew (Ann)</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Dominika &amp; Lech Boron (Sp Int)</b>
<i>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Rosemary Kelly, Eileen Kelly, Michael Maureen &amp; Joseph Kelly, Mary Forbes, James, Julie &amp; Mark Stephens(Sp Int)</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>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

### WHAT A FOOL!

Have you noticed how the media, particularly the television and cinema, treat the clergy of the Christian Churches? They treat them like fools. The Anglican is parodied as a harmless fop (the vicar in Dad's Army), the Catholic is often portrayed as an alcoholic (Father Ted) and the Methodist or Free Church minister is derided as a fun-hating misery. By caricaturing the clergy like this you caricature the religion. Why do it? Because what Christians believe appears stupid. It doesn't make sense to anyone else. In fact, it seems sheer foolishness. That's why it frightens others and invites mockery. Who in their right mind would believe in a God who is the creator and life-force of all that exists? Surely, we all know that science has done away with the need for God? Who apart from a madman or woman would believe that the baby born into the world two thousand years ago is actually the embodiment on earth of the divine being? Only a fool would accept the teaching that says we have to die in order really to enjoy life. It's an idiot's creed to put others' needs before your own. Surely you need a feeble mind to see victory in the public and humiliating execution of your leader? How can there be any mileage in following a man who turns the accepted values of society on their head, calling for the first to be the last, the leader to be a servant, for people to put relative store in what they enjoy here on earth because they're promised something even greater in an afterlife? We need a Lenten reality check to realise that we are fools to many in our society. The teaching of Christ does not seek to be respectable but radical and it alienates just as much as it endears. St Paul gets to the heart of it today saying, "Here we are preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagan's madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." Don't be fooled into thinking that your faith is seen as respectable. Most people think it's stupid.



## 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 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** Fr. Nick and Fr. Seán will be available to hear confession during a service of reconciliation on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

**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 28<sup>th</sup>) to have their feet washed. Sign-up sheets are available at the back of the church for anyone interested.

**THANK YOU** to all those who worked so tirelessly ensuring the success of the World Day of Prayer prepared by the Christian women of Palestine which was very successfully hosted and enjoyed by all who attended the service here in St. Mark's last Friday. Your efforts were very much appreciated by everyone. Thank You all.

**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** next weekend (9&10/3) in aid of SCIAF and Episcopal Charities. There will be boxes at the back of the church for anyone wishing to donate to this cause.

<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>63</i>	<i>£236</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>£462</i>	

St. Mark'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 Exodus [20:1-17]**

*The Law was given through Moses.*

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 'You shall have no gods except me. 'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. 'Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the Sabbath day and made it sacred. 'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.

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### **Responsorial Psalm [18:8-11]**

***Response: You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.***

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just.



They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb.

### **Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [1:22-25]**

*Here we are preaching a crucified Christ, an obstacle to men, but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagan's madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

### **Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [2:13-25]**

*Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

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