

ST. MARK'S PARISH

10th March 2024 – 4th Sunday of Lent Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 9th March	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 10th March		10:00am	Rosemary Kelly, Eileen Kelly, Michael Maureen & Joseph Kelly, Mary Forbes, James, Julie & Mark Stephens(Sp Int)
Monday 11th March		10:00am	Catherine Noble (Sp Int)
Tuesday 12th March		10:00am	David Mitchell (RIP)
Thursday 14th March		10:00am	Cathie, Alec & Jim Paterson (RIP)
Friday 15th March		10:00am	Alex McVeigh (RIP)
<i>Saturday 16th March</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>John Smith (RIP)</i>
<i>Sunday 17th March</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.			
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

GOD ON OUR SIDE

On television you can sometimes see people in the crowd at sports events holding up a placard that simply says “John 3:16”. They are Christians who want to get you to find out what the text says in John’s gospel: “God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son so that anyone who believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life”. You can see why they hold up that particular reference. In a sense it sums up the whole purpose of the incarnation. It captures the heart of the gospel message in one verse. And yet it comes as something of a surprise to many people. In popular culture God is portrayed as a severe character, as someone who is just dying for us to put a foot wrong so that he can send down lightning bolts, earthquakes and floods and condemn the whole lot of us. However, as this text from today’s gospel reminds us, God sent his Son not because he detested the world but because he loves it so much. And the purpose of the Son’s coming to earth was not to wreak destruction but to ensure salvation. God became one of us. A fellow human being is also our God: Jesus the Christ. And strange though it seems, God is on our side and is rich in love. When we choose to ignore what’s good for us we come face to face with God. But what’s God’s preferred remedy? Is it punishment and death? No. It’s mercy and grace. People who try to discredit religion say that it thrives on fear, that it only makes its followers psychologically dependent on a greater being that holds the threat of annihilation over them. Maybe they should read this text. God sent his Son because he loves us and doesn’t want us to miss out on the fullness of life. So as we continue our journey through lent we should always remember and rejoice in the fact that God is on our side – we are the ones he loved so much that he sent his only Son to.



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.

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

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY to all our wonderful mothers in the parish, may the good Lord bless you all on this your special day, and every day.

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. **Only 7 places left – if you snooze – you lose.**

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, beginning with the children who will be making their first confessions after the 10am Mass on Thursday 14th March. 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.

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend in aid of Papal and Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF). There will be boxes at the back of the church for anyone wishing to donate.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: March 100 club draw results and prizes are: **1st: #26 Joan Craig** £30. **2nd: #12 Peter Matulaitis** £10 and **3rd: #32 Angela Livingston** £10. Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join.

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark’s Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £1,325. 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>58</i>	<i>£269</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>£392</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 second book of Chronicles [36:14-

16.19-23] *The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke: through Jeremiah, Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation. And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.

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Responsorial Psalm [136]

Response: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there we hung up our
harps.

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.'



O how could we sing
the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forgot you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

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

[2:4-10] *You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

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Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

**God loved the world so much that he gave his only son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [3:14-21]

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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