

ST. MARK'S PARISH

2nd March 2025 – 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 1st March	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd March		10:00am	Jan & Janina Straczynski (Ann)
Monday 3rd March		10:00am	Patrick McDade (Ann)
Tuesday 4th March		10:00am	Brian Forde (Ann)
Ash Wednesday 5th March		10:00am	Kathleen McDade (Ann)
Ash Wednesday 5th March		7:00pm	Nuala Moores (RIP)
Thursday 6th March		10:00am	John Pettigrew (Ann)
Friday 7th March		10:00am	Elisa Armit (Sp Int)
<i>Saturday 8th March</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 9th March</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Bernadette Sweeney (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.			
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

LENT

The 40 days of Lent come around every year, but the Church has three different routes to Easter which it takes in a three-year cycle. This year (Year C) we have St Luke as our principal guide and he takes us along the route to Holy Week, introducing us to all sorts of different characters and scenery. Luke's Lent is about repentance and forgiveness. On the **first Sunday** of Lent we encounter a troubled Jesus, troubled by the devil who is trying to tempt him. Jesus experienced every temptation that we have, in order to rise above our human weakness. In Christ there is no temptation that we cannot overcome. The **second Sunday** of Lent shows us the other side to Jesus, his divine transfigured side, and promises us that by following him we too will come to see God's glory. A sombre warning comes on the **third Sunday** of Lent that we cannot keep putting things off. Lent is a time for action and for conversion of heart. We cannot presume that we will always have a tomorrow in which to sort things out. Luke's story of the prodigal son on the fourth **Sunday** of Lent tells us just the sort of God we are journeying with. No matter how much we may wander from God, God will never abandon us. Lent is a time for coming back to life, for responding, for celebration. The **fifth Sunday** of Lent presents the woman taken in adultery and is a lesson to us that there is no sin which is outside God's mercy. While the law would condemn us, if we return to God there is nothing but forgiveness. So, Luke's Lent is a call to celebrate this joyful season of repentance and forgiveness in preparation for the wonders we await at Easter.



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 marking the beginning of Lent is on the 5th March this year and is a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at each of the 2 Masses that day 10am & 7pm. St. Mark's school will join us for the 10am mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held every Monday evening during Lent at 7:00pm in St. Mark's, beginning on Monday 10th March.

St. MARK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL are collecting blue tokens in the Tesco community fundraising boxes found at the store entrance for an urgently needed school library. Please can you help us by popping tokens in when you shop at the Oxcgangs store or local Tesco Express stores, until April? Thank you!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 11AM. This year the service has been prepared by the ladies of the Cook Islands. The service will take place at St Fillans Episcopal Church, 8 Buckstone Drive, EH10 6PD. It is a beautiful service and a great opportunity to come together with the local churches and pray together.

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.

SCIAF – LENTEN Wee BOXES are now available at the back of the church. For those interested in participating in this charitable cause, please take one home and return it on Palm Sunday.

REMINDER to parents of all children making their **First Confessions**, - the Presentation of the Cross takes place during the 10am Mass on Sunday 15th March.

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

2nd COLLECTION in aid of the Archdiocesan Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund last weekend yielded a combined donation of £437.77. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend 1/2 March 2025. 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>78</i>	<i>£288</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>£352</i>	

St. Marks's, Oxcgangs 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 Ecclesiasticus [27:4-7]

Do not praise a man before you hear him reason.

When a sieve is shaken, the refuse appears; so a person's filth in his thoughts. The kiln tests the potter's vessels; likewise the test of a person is in his reasoning. The fruit discloses the cultivation of a tree; so the expression of a thought discloses the cultivation of a person's mind.

Do not praise a man before you hear him reason, for this is the test of people.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 92(91):2-3. 13-14. 15-16. V2a]

Response: It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your loving mercy in the morning,
and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just one will flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the LORD,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

Still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the LORD is upright.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [15:54-58] *He gives us the victory through Jesus Christ.*

Brothers and Sisters: When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

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**Alleluia, alleluia
Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life
Alleluia**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [6:39-45]

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: 'Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

'For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.'

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