

ST. MARK'S PARISH

23rd February 2025 – 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 22nd February	Vigil	5:00pm	Jim Caulfield (RIP)
Sunday 23rd February		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 24th February		10:00am	NO MASS
Tuesday 25th February		10:00am	NO MASS
Thursday 27th February		10:00am	NO MASS
Friday 28th February		10:00am	NO MASS
<i>Saturday 1st March</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 2nd March</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Jan & Janina Straczynski (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			

THROW AWAY THE KEY!

From time to time, when some crime has been committed, people are interviewed about what should happen to the criminal. A favourite phrase is that they should be locked up and the key be thrown away. Without getting involved in the politics of crime and punishment, there does seem to be a standard set out in the gospel which conflicts with this sort of statement. The justice which Jesus asks us to employ has nothing to do with scales. If it were simply a question of weighing crime and punishment in the balance, life would be easy. But Jesus complicates matters by turning the tables on us. The way we are expected to deal with others is in exactly the same way as God deals with us. We are to be “compassionate as our Father is compassionate”. We are to love our enemies and turn the other cheek since “God is kind to the ungrateful as well as the wicked”. This sounds very nice and very religious but it’s hard to put into practice. We are brought up to defend ourselves, to react in a way that puts a distance between us and our enemies. Yet God not only behaves differently but tells us to do the same. At the heart of the matter is the fact that we do not own our love. We do not generate forgiveness. God is love and our love is simply a reflection of God’s love. The forgiveness which we “offer” to some and “withhold” from others is not ours to dispense. We can only forgive because we have first been forgiven by God. Of course we have to protect ourselves and safeguard society, but as far as possible we have to turn the other cheek. This means recognizing that we too are in constant need of God’s forgiveness, so much so that we cannot afford to block its flow. We are only forgiven to the degree in which we forgive others. When we are compassionate to those whom justice would condemn, when we turn the other cheek and when we reach out to our enemies we should expect no applause. We are simply owning up to our shortcomings and our need for forgiveness.



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.

THERE WILL BE NO DAILY MASSES this week from Monday 24th through to Friday 28th February. please see the amended Mass schedule on front of Newsletter.

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 Oxgangs 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 **First Confessions, First Holy Communion** or **Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held on Sunday 2nd March during 10am Mass.

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 this weekend. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark’s Building Fund will be held Next weekend 1/2 March 2025. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you

<i>St. Mark's</i>	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible
VIGIL	78	£332	
SUNDAY	136	£441	

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 Samuel [26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-

23] *The Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.*

In those days: Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.' But David said to Abishai, 'Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?' So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them.

Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. David said, 'Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 103(102):1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13, r8a]

Response: The Lord is compassionate and gracious

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions.
As a father has compassion on his children,
the Lord's compassion is on those who fear him.

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

Corinthians [15:45-49] *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

Brothers and Sisters: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

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Alleluia, alleluia

**A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, just as I have loved you**
Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [6:27-38]

Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you; and from one who takes away your goods, do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

'If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.'

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