

## ST. MARK'S PARISH

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year C**

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### MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Patricia Nkiruka (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Max &amp; Vincent Timoney (RIP)</b>
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Patrick McDade (Ann)</b>
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Phil White (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Sr Monica McDonald (RIP)</b>
<i>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Boguslaw Lasak (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</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			

### LAST CHANCE SALOON?

Imagine you had a bank account. Not just any old bank account. Every day this bank account is filled by an anonymous donor who deposits £86,400 in your name. But there's a snag. At midnight every day the account is emptied. You can't save the money until tomorrow. You have to use it today or else it's gone. Still not bad? You can do a lot with £86,400 a day.



It may surprise you to know that you do have such an account. The only thing is, it's not pounds but seconds that are given to you. There are 86,400 seconds in every 24 hours. When midnight strikes, they are gone and you have to start a new day.

We love to put things off. Yes, we'll get round to them some day but at the moment I'm a bit busy, a bit tired, it's too late, Coronation Street is on or I'm a bit too distracted to do anything at the moment - there's always tomorrow.

Today's gospel is a stark reminder that sometimes tomorrow doesn't come!! The point is that you never know what's lurking around the corner - the 2 people mentioned in our gospel today probably never considered that they would own this truth on that day they died.

Our Christian faith is not like a diet that we can start at the beginning of next month or after Easter, or in time for the summer holidays. Our 86,400 seconds are given to us to be lived now, to the full. Today is the day that God wants to save us. Today is the day that we are offered the chance to reorganise our lifestyles, to return to the basics that we may have let go of. Lent asks us to look at our priorities and to make sure that we don't keep putting things off, to open ourselves to God's action in order to bear fruit. Of course, we can't bank time, can we even bank on time? In Lent we have 3,456,000 seconds. It would be a pity to waste any of them.

## 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.

**12 VOLUNTEERS** are being sought to participate in our Easter Triduum celebration for the Vigil Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (April 17<sup>th</sup>) to have their feet washed. A Sign-up sheet is available at the back of the church for anyone interested.

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

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** typically held on the first Thursday of the month from 7pm to 8pm will no longer take place.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME:** don't forget that the clock's go forward 1-hour next weekend.

**2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION:** The annual special collection for Papal and Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF) will be taken up next weekend 29/30 March.

**ST. MARK'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2024/25** The names of all children registered for the Sacraments of First Confessions, First Holy Communion and Confirmation 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 as soon as possible.**

**NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2025-26** are now available at the back of the Church for those who have pledged to Gift Aid their donations. If your circumstances have changed such that you are no longer eligible to Gift Aid your donations (eg no longer paying income tax or if your address has changed), then please speak to Fr Seán or any of the Gift Aid Organisers, Katy Burns, Carol Lonie and Paul Drury. Your Gift Aid donations provide an extra, much needed source of income for St Mark's as they allow us to claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated. If you pay income tax and have not yet signed up to Gift Aid your donations, please do. Thank you for your continued support of the Parish throughout the year.

**SPICK AND SPAN:** Come and have fun with mops and brushes as we continue in our mission to keep our beautiful church clean and tidy for all those who practice their faith here at St. Mark's. All help is greatly appreciated by everyone - both in heaven and on earth. Tuesday 25/3/2025 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

<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>84</i>	<i>£369</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>£402</i>	

St. Marks's, Oxbgangs 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 [3:1-8a. 13-15]

*"I Am" has sent me to you.*

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

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### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8, 11. R8a]

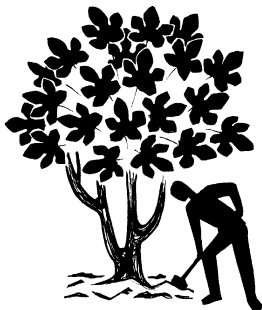
*Response: The Lord is compassionate and gracious.*

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 does deeds of justice,  
gives full justice to all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
and his deeds to the children of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.



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

Corinthians [10:1-6. 10-12] *The way of life of the people with Moses in the desert was written down for our instruction.*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

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**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.  
Repent, says the Lord,  
for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [13:1-9]

*Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?"' And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

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