

ST. MARK'S PARISH

18th January 2026 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 17th January	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 18th January		10:00am	Bill Lighthouse (Ann)
Monday 19th January		10:00am	Margaret Neilson (SpInt)
Tuesday 20th January		10:00am	Paul Cummings (Ann)
Thursday 22nd January		10:00am	Eddie Ramsay (RIP)
Friday 23rd January		10:00am	Stephen Nardone (SpInt)
<i>Saturday 24th January</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Alexander & Matilda Hanlon (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 25th January</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.			
EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am			

THE LAMB OF GOD

When John the Baptist called Jesus the “Lamb of God” what did his hearers think he was talking about? To us it seems such a strange thing to say. Was it any less strange for the people on the banks of the River Jordan? Those who knew about the scriptures would think of two things. They would remember some mysterious passages in the prophecies of Isaiah, and their minds would also go back to the Exodus and its annual celebration at Passover. At one stage in their history the Jews were deported to Iraq, to Babylon, close to Baghdad. Their hopes seemed dashed as for about fifty years they were separated from Jerusalem and the proper practice of their religion. At that time Isaiah begins to talk about a mysterious “suffering servant” who would take on the troubles of the people and ultimately save them by giving his own life. The Jews in today’s gospel might have been back home in Jerusalem but once more they were under army occupation, this time by the Romans. When John points Jesus out as the “Lamb of God” his hearers would have made the connection with the “suffering servant” of Isaiah. Some would have hoped for a revolutionary leader to overthrow the Romans, but others would remember the perfect disciple of God who proclaims the true faith in the midst of errors, who suffers to atone for the sins of the people and who is ultimately glorified by God. Of course, not everyone would have immediately taken all this in. But every Jew would have made the connection with the Exodus and the Passover. For the lamb was the animal by which the people were saved from Egyptian slavery and brought into the Promised Land. It was with the blood of the lamb that sacrifices were made daily in the Temple and at the annual celebration of Passover it was a lamb that was eaten. The lamb was a central spiritual symbol. So when John the Baptist called Jesus the “Lamb of God” it started to ring bells for his hearers. Who was this man? What did he want? What would he do? Little did they suspect. And little did they know.



PARISH NEWS

WELCOME If you are just visiting our parish today, a regular attendee or if this is the first time you have been to Mass for a while, we welcome you to our humble parish and hope our time together unites us all in God’s love. Please, feel free to take a newsletter home with you.

Thank You to everyone involved in welcoming parishioners, preparing hymn books, helping with the offertory collection, flower arranging, money counters, readers and our musicians. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by all who practice their faith here at St. Marks and are major contributors to the joyful, prayerful and friendly experience shared by all who join us for Mass every week.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM If you wish to have your child baptised, please arrange an appointment with Fr. Seán or Fr. Nick either after Mass, by calling the parish office or sending an email to the above listed email address. Please remember that at least one of the child’s parents should be a practicing Catholic as should one of the chosen Godparents/Sponsors.

REMINDER to parents of all children making **First Confessions**, **First Holy Communion** or **Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held on Sunday 1st March during 10am Mass. All application forms must be received prior to this. A meeting of parents of children making their first Confession is set for January 19th @7pm in the church hall. A meeting of parents of children making their First Holy Communion is set for February 2nd @7pm in the church hall and for parents of children making their Confirmation February 23rd @7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all over these coming weeks.

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 20/1/2026 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: The winners for our January draw are: **1st: #54 Carol Lonie** £40. **2nd: #21 Maureen Hope** £15 and **3rd: #75 Tom Sanaghan** Surprise Gift. Congratulations to you all. Additionally, each of the Charities that we fund raise for, Mary’s Meals and SCIAF have recently been sent a cheque for £573.50 which is the sum total raised by our Charity Fundraising group throughout 2025. Thank you to everyone involved in this very charitable endeavour.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend (17/18 Jan) in aid of Justice & Peace. A collection box will be made available at the back of the church for anyone who would like to make a donation to this very charitable cause.

<i>St. Mark’s</i>	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God’s church would not be possible</i>
VIGIL	70	£306	
SUNDAY	120	£410	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [49:3. 5-6]

I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him - for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength.

he says: 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

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Responsorial Psalm [40(39):2, 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. ±8a, 9a]

Response: Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the LORD,
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

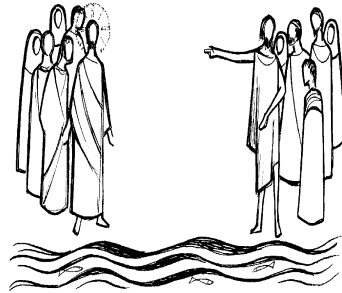
You delight not in sacrifice and offering,
but in an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering.
Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.'

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me:
'I delight to do your will, O my God;
your instruction lies deep within me.'

Your uprightness I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O LORD.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [1:1-3]

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Alleluia, alleluia

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us;

to all who did receive him,

he gave the authority to become children of God.

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [1:29-34]

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

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