

**ST. MARK'S PARISH**

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A**

*Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson*

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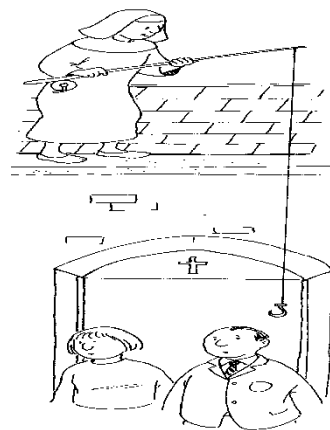
**MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Alexander &amp; Matilda Hanlon(Ann)</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Gordon McGhee (Ann)</b>
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>John McDade (SpInt)</b>
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Ben Cummings (SpInt)</b>
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Mary McCrone (SpInt)</b>
<i>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Jim Mulligan (1<sup>st</sup> Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</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>EUCARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am			

**FISHING**

If you follow me, it's people you'll catch, Jesus says in today's gospel. We all agree that we want to follow Jesus and come closer to God. But why are we so shy about fishing for others? Why do we find it hard to try and bring others to Christ? Is it a cultural thing? Have we bought into the great deception that it's not the done thing to parade our faith on our sleeve? Don't talk about religion or politics, the saying goes. But if religion is about the ultimate meaning of life and politics is about how we organise it, then not to talk about either of them condemns us to the pleasantries of surface-living.

Our Christian belief is the one thing that makes sense of our existence, it provides us with the wherewithal to cope with what life throws at us, so how can we think of keeping it to ourselves and not trying to get others to experience it.



If we're not prepared to lead people towards God, then who is? And yet leading people to God is part of our "contract". To be a follower of Christ implies that we too proclaim the good news to the ends of the earth- or at least to the ends of our street. If we talk to others and they ask questions that we can't answer, then it's a simple case of putting them in touch with those who can. We're not expected to be geniuses or oracles. We're not expected to become full-time missionaries in some far-flung country. We're not expected to become experts on all matters of faith and religion. But we are expected to do a bit of fishing

**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.

**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 email address listed on front page. 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 1<sup>st</sup> March during 10am Mass. All application forms must be received prior to this. A meeting for parents of children making their First Holy Communion is set for February 2<sup>nd</sup> @7pm in the church hall and for parents of children making their Confirmation February 23<sup>rd</sup> @7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all over these coming weeks.

**CAR PARK AT REAR OF CHURCH:** the back gate of the church is opened for Mass on Sundays which will provide more parking spaces and ease the congestion typically experienced in the front car park. Please note that it is for the most part a grassy surface so please mind your step when wet.

**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.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK** If you know of a forthcoming visit to hospital involving a serious illness or an operation and you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please speak to Fr Seán or Fr. Nick 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 charge nurse on the ward and they will arrange it with the chaplaincy Department of the hospital. Please do not leave your request to the last minute as you may not be guaranteed an immediate response.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** in aid of Justice & Peace last week realised a combined donation of £208.10 Thank you.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend 31<sup>st</sup> Jan/1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2026. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you

<i>St. Mark's</i>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</i>
<b>VIGIL</b>	<i>64</i>	<i>£312</i>	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<i>150</i>	<i>£455</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 prophet Isaiah [9:1b-4]

*In Galilee of the nations the people have seen a great light.*

In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 27(26):1. 4. 13-14. ±1a]

**Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

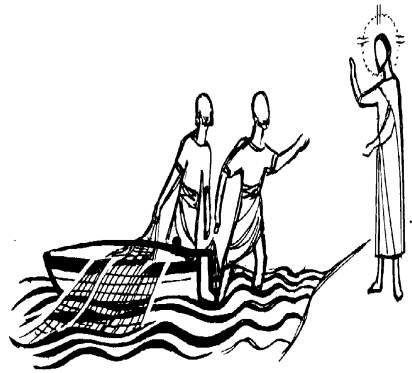
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread?

There is one thing I ask of the LORD,  
only this do I seek:

to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,  
to enquire at his temple.

I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong;  
be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!



### Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [1:10-13. 17]

*I appeal to you that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you.*

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul', or 'I follow Apollos', or 'I follow Cephas', or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

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**Alleluia, alleluia**

**Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom  
and healed every affliction among the people.**

**Alleluia**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [4:12-23]

*Jesus went to Capernaum so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled.*

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

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