

ST. MARK'S PARISH

8th February 2026 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 7th February	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 8th February		10:00am	Annam Vareed (Ann)
Monday 9th February		10:00am	Francesca Stewart (RIP)
Tuesday 10th February		10:00am	Bernard Martin (Ann)
Thursday 12th February		10:00am	Rose Kelly (Ann)
Friday 13th February		10:00am	People of the Philipines (SpInt)
<i>Saturday 14th February</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Susan Barrow (RIP)</i>
<i>Sunday 15th February</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			

PASS THE SALT!

Matthew's Gospel has always been referred to as a teaching Gospel. His Gospel contains five sermons or discourses –The Sermon **on the Mount**, the sermon **on Missionary activity**, the sermon **on the Kingdom of heaven**, the sermon **on the aspects of Community living** - especially in the area of forgiveness and, the sermon **on the Last Times**.



In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to be the light of the world and salt of the earth. The image of light and its effects is one which is fairly well known in our world. Spiritually speaking, in many ways our being the light of the world means that we put into practice the challenges Jesus describes.

Our being the salt of the earth challenges us to realise that our efforts to live in the way that Jesus describes will also have an impact on others – whether we ever know it or not.

Perhaps we can take some time to recognise and acknowledge how we allow the light of Christ to shine in our lives and how we renew and deepen our relationship with God. It is important for us to continue to be light to the world and salt of the earth, for in maintaining this - by living his life, by witnessing to him, to the power his gospel has to transform, we reflect not our own light but God's - as we continue to maintain His presence and His mission in the world around us.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Matthew Townsley and Arlo Butler, who were baptised in St Mark's church last weekend. We welcome them into our parish.

World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March 2026: This year Fairmilehead Parish Church is hosting this Ecumenical service. It has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria. Please join us at **11am** for a short service followed by refreshments in the hall.

ASH WEDNESDAY marking the beginning of Lent is on the 18th February this year and is a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at each of the 2 Masses that day 10am & 7pm.

Lenten & Easter issues of **My Day by Day** booklets are now available at the back of the church.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held every Monday evening during Lent at 7:00pm in St. Mark's, beginning on Monday 23rd February.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: The winners for our February draw are: **1st: #75 Tom Sanaghan £40. 2nd: #60 Eileen HOFFIE £15 and 3rd: #57 Aileen Holligan Surprise Gift.** Congratulations to you all.

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 for parents of children making their Confirmation is set for February 23rd @7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all then.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £3,107. 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>81</i>	<i>£328</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>£413</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [58:6-10]

Your light shall break forth like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord: Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

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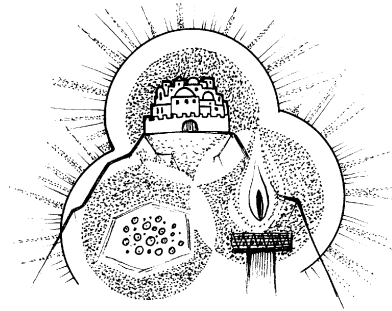
Responsorial Psalm [Ps 112(111):4-5. 6-7. 8a, 9. ±4a]

Response: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright;
he is generous, merciful, and righteous.
It goes well for the man who deals generously and lends,
who conducts his affairs with justice.

He will never be moved;
for ever shall the upright be remembered.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart, he trusts in the Lord.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear.
Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His might shall be exalted in glory.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [2:1-5]

I proclaimed to you the mystery of Christ crucified.

I, when I came to you, brothers and sisters, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

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Alleluia, alleluia

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.**

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [5:13-16]

You are the light of the world.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'

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