

ST. MARK'S PARISH

15th February 2026 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

Parish Office: 29 Oxbgangs Avenue., Edinburgh, EH13 9HX Ph: 0131 441 3915

Email: office.stmarksedinburgh@staned.org.uk

Website: stmarksrccchurch-edinburgh.org.uk

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 14th February	Vigil	5:00pm	Susan Barrow (RIP)
Sunday 15th February		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 16th February		10:00am	R & G Boron & Co. (SpInt)
Tuesday 17th February		10:00am	Benidict Glover (Ann)
Ash Wednesday 18th February		10:00am	Raoul Blazy (RIP)
Ash Wednesday 18th February		7:00pm	Vincent Goodwin (RIP)
Thursday 19th February		10:00am	William Forker (Ann)
Friday 20th February		10:00am	Jean MacKellaig (RIP)
<i>Saturday 21st February</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Tish Finch (SpInt)</i>
<i>Sunday 22nd 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			

MOVING THE BAR

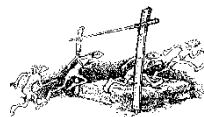
Hardly a news bulletin goes by without some story of a world leader or local politician being accused of duplicity or lying. And what's worse- we have come to expect that the allegations are automatically going to be true.

So, when the story of some big scandal brings down politicians and temporarily threatens the stability of a government, we take it in our stride. And when a world leader is shown to have deceived his or her people, we say that it's only what we expect.

Of course, we have to be careful. None of us is perfect, and we can easily fall into the trap of condemning others when we know ourselves to be guilty of the same faults. Yet we run the risk of moving the goalpost or lowering the bar just because we can't be bothered to stand up for what we know is morally right.

Duplicity is a word used by journalists to avoid the charge of libel. What they really want to say is "lying". And duplicity is what Jesus criticises in today's gospel. It means acting with a "duple" or double standard. This can mean acting in one way but thinking in another - like Dracula volunteering to look after the blood bank or complimenting the priest even when he preaches a bad sermon!

Be transparent is what Jesus asks of us. Let your "yes" and "no" mean what they say. Have the courage to say what you believe even though it might make you unpopular. Public "standards", whatever they may be, cannot exist in isolation from private standards. To put it positively: if we tightened up our private lives, then our public standards would reflect this. Christ asks us to have open hands, not fingers crossed; to jump over the bar, not to lower it.



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 Andrew and John, sons of Jan and Tilly Straczynski 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 (18th February) is a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at each of the 2 Masses that day 10am & 7pm.

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 the faithful who want to practice their faith here at St. Mark's. All help is greatly appreciated by everyone - both in heaven and on earth. Tuesday 17/02/26 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

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.

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.

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.

<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	<i>71</i>	£278	
SUNDAY	<i>123</i>	£430	

St. Mark's, Oxbgangs is a parish of The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh, a charity registered in Scotland - Number SC008540

First Reading: a reading from the book of Sirach [15:15-20]

He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly.

If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of choice. He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. Life and death are in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him. For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a person's every deed. He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

Texts from the ESV-CE, published by Asian Trading Corp. © 2017 Crossway - published in the UK by SPCK Publishing. Psalms and Canticles from Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB. Reprinted with permission.

Responsorial Psalm [119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. ±1b]

Response: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

Blessed are those who keep his decrees!

With all their hearts they seek him.

You have laid down your precepts
to be carefully kept.

May my ways be firm
in keeping your statutes.

Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.
Open my eyes, that I may see
the wonders of your law.

Lord, teach me the way of your statutes,
and I will keep them to the end.
Grant me insight that I may keep your law,
and observe it wholeheartedly.



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

[2:6-10] *'A wisdom God decreed before the ages for our glory.'*

Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written,

'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,

what God has prepared for those who love him' —

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Texts from the ESV-CE, published by Asian Trading Corp. © 2017 Crossway - published in the UK by SPCK Publishing. Psalms and Canticles from Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB. Reprinted with permission.

Alleluia, alleluia

**I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.
Alleluia**

Gospel: a reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew [5:17-37]

It was said to those of old; but I say to you.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

'You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. So, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn." But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil.'

Texts from the ESV-CE, published by Asian Trading Corp. © 2017 Crossway - published in the UK by SPCK Publishing. Psalms and Canticles from Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB. Reprinted with permission.