

ST. MARK'S PARISH

22nd February 2026 1st Sunday of Lent Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 21st February	Vigil	5:00pm	Tish Finch (SpInt)
Sunday 22nd February		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 23rd February		10:00am	Ann Allan (SpInt)
Tuesday 24th February		10:00am	FUNERAL MARY TOSHNEY
Thursday 26th February		10:00am	Ellen McPartlin (Ann)
Friday 27th February		10:00am	Corinne Sutherland (SpInt)
<i>Saturday 28th February</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 1st March</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Mary Winter (Ann)</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			

PLENTY OF TIME?

One day the devil called a meeting in hell with all his demons. Top of the agenda was the question of how to get people to stop believing in God and end up ignoring sin and being forever at each others' throats. This would then swell hell's numbers. One of the chief demons said, "I have a plan. Let's tell the people that there is no God and they've been tricked." Another demon said, "No, that's too obvious. Of course, there's a just and holy God. Anyone except a fool knows that." "Well then," another demon said, "Let them believe that he is a just and holy God, but tell them that they are so sinful that they've had their last chance and now he won't accept them. That will demoralise them." But another said, "No, that won't work. Everyone knows he's also a God of mercy, and anyone who recognises their sinfulness and repents is assured of his forgiveness." "I know exactly what we can do!" another demon exclaimed, "Let them believe there is a God – a just and holy God, full of mercy, but let's just tell them that there's plenty of time."

Lent is the season of penance and self-denial. It's six weeks when we take stock of our lives and see whether they are taking us closer to God or further away from him. Is there any rush? Should we get urgent about it? Should we begin looking to see if there is a pattern about the way we fall into situations that we know are sinful and do us no good? Are there aspects of our lifestyle that need checking? Are some of our desires questionable? Are we genuinely trying to purify our motives? Do we do enough for others, close to home or those abroad who are in need? Lent is about action, about opening ourselves to the working of God's grace, about having a change of heart, a U-turn in the normal pattern of our behaviour. It's a holy season of self-denial. But don't worry; there's plenty of time. Or so the devil says.



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.

RIP Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Mary Isabella Toshney who was recently reborn into eternal Life. Her Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 24th February at 10am in St. Mark's followed by interment at Mount Vernon Cemetery, at 11.15 am. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ava and Ayla, daughters of Racheal Kyomugisa 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.

CHILDRENS LITURGY: there will not be any Children's Liturgy this weekend as schools are on their mid-term break. It will re-commence again on Sunday 1st March.

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.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend 1st March 2026. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you.

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	64	£270	
SUNDAY	189	£547	

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 Genesis [2:7-9. 3:1-7]

The creation and sin of our first parents.

The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 51(50):3-4. 5-6b. 12-13. 14, 17. ± cf. 3a]

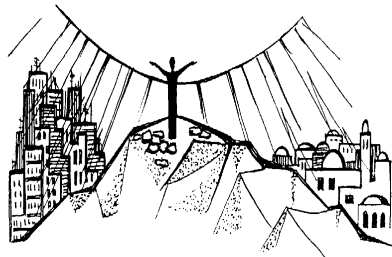
Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your merciful love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me completely from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions, truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
sustain in me a willing spirit.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [5:12-19]

Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

one does not live by bread alone

But by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [4:1-11]

Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.

At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' '

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."' '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."' '

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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