

**ST. MARK'S PARISH**

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2026 4<sup>th</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 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Jim Mulligan (1<sup>st</sup> Ann)</b>
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Teddy Lumanglas (Ann)</b>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Ben Cummings (SpInt)</b>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Sr Aurora (SpInt)</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Gus Morgan (Ann)</b>
<i>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Annam Vareed (Ann)</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			

**MEEK NOT WEAK**

When we take a look at the Beatitudes in Matthew's gospel for today we are immediately struck by the fact that everything that Jesus is advocating is exactly what our modern-day world considers weakness. Poverty, lowliness, persecution, mourning etc., are things to be avoided like the plague. Nobody wants these. Yet Jesus says that Christians will be truly happy if they embrace these values.

At the heart of these Beatitudes lies the concept of humility. Humility is a very powerful weapon in anyone's armoury. Humility allows us to acknowledge the poverty of our own resources in comparison to the creator of all things, Visible and Invisible, and yet at the same time to recognise that with the help God, nothing is impossible.

Humility is not a call to stand in the background but a challenge to step up and do what it takes. Sometimes it's hard to be a Christian because people equate Christianity with "being nice". They fail to see the radical calling of the Beatitudes that sets Christians at odds with what society prizes highly.

The Beatitudes point to values that go beyond this world for they promise an eternal happiness. To accept them requires a good deal of meekness. And to be meek you have to be strong.



**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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** marking the beginning of Lent is on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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** 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**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.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this 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>	<b>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</b>
<b>VIGIL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>£365</b>	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>£427</b>	

St. Marks's, Oxgangs 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 Zephaniah [2:3; 3:12-13]

*I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly.*

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.

I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue.

For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

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### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. ± Matthew 5:3]

**Response:** *Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord who sets prisoners free.

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,  
your God, O Sion, from age to age.



### Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [1:26-31] *God chose what is weak in the world.*

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

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**Alleluia, alleluia**  
**Rejoice and be glad,**  
**for your reward is great in heaven.**  
**Alleluia**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [5:1-12a]

*Blessed are the poor in spirit.*

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

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