

## ST. MARK'S PARISH

**8th March 2026 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A**

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

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**MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>John Pettigrew (Ann)</b>
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Robert Fernandes (RIP)</b>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Funeral Terry White</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Mother Ostrabrama (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Eileen Mulvenna (RIP)</b>
<i>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Liz Fotheringham (RIP)</i>
<i>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</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			

**WHAT DO YOU GET?** For most of us Lent is here again and we may think that we've heard it all before. But for a small group of people throughout the world it's something that they will never forget. They are **catechumens** and **candidates**. Catechumens are men and women who will be baptised at Easter and candidates are those who are already baptised but will be received into the Church at Easter. For the next three weeks they are going through an intense period that concludes many months or even years of preparation. Each Sunday of Lent the Church tries to give them (and us) one principal image to latch on to in order to express something of the significance of becoming a fully fledged Christian. What do you get when you believe in Jesus? Today we're told that we get **WATER**. But not just any old water. Jesus promises the Samaritan women water of life - if you drink this water it will satisfy all your longings and yearnings. Following Jesus is not like some hobby, something that you can do part-time, something that you can take or leave. It's all-consuming because it alters the whole meaning of your life. It quenches that thirst of emptiness which can easily take hold of us. What Christ offers is something that satisfies deep down. Next week we'll see that we get **LIGHT**. Jesus will cure a man who was born blind. It will transform his whole being. Not only will he see things, but he'll see everything in a new light, in a completely different way, because he knows the source of this new-found sight. The gospel sheds light for us on the decisions and choices of our lives. Unlike those who have not received this light of faith we see things differently. In two weeks time we'll discover that we get **LIFE**. When Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead his life takes on a new meaning. He will never wake up the same ever again. The life that Jesus offers us has an effect on how we enjoy God's creation here on earth but it carries with it an extra bonus: the knowledge that we are intended for a life of happiness that never ends. So if you think you've heard it all before, listen with the ears of a catechumen and rediscover what's really on offer for those who are prepared to give their lives to God.



## 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 **Terry White** who was recently reborn into eternal Life. Her requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 10am in St. Mark's. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION:** The annual special collection for Papal and Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF) will be taken up next weekend 14/15 March.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held every Monday evening during Lent at 7:00pm in St. Mark's.

**NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2026-27** are now available at the back of the Church for those who have pledged to Gift Aid their donations. If your circumstances have changed such that you are no longer eligible to Gift Aid your donations (eg no longer paying income tax or if your address has changed), then please speak to Fr Seán or any of the Gift Aid Organisers, Carol Lonie and Paul Drury. Your Gift Aid donations provide an extra, much needed source of income for St Mark's as they allow us to claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated. If you pay income tax and have not yet signed up to Gift Aid your donations, please do. Thank you for your continued support of the Parish throughout the year.

**MOTHER'S DAY CAFE** Please support our local parish children to fundraise for a "*once in a lifetime*" trip to Switzerland with the Scouts. A Special Mother's Day cafe will be held on the 15th March after Sunday Mass. All are welcome. Cakes, cappuccinos, teas and treats will be sold to raise funds (CASH & CARD accepted) Thank you!

**12 VOLUNTEERS** are being sought to participate in our Easter Triduum celebration of the Vigil Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) to have their feet washed. A Sign-up sheet is available at the back of the church for any interested **brave** souls.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE:** This Tuesday (10 March) the Scottish Parliament will begin debating the final stage of the Assisted Suicide Bill. Please share your concerns with MSPs that sick and vulnerable people need special care and protection, not abandonment. The Bill is too risky for too many. Use the letter writing tool at <https://carenotkilling.scot/>

**REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY MASS:** if anyone would like to Volunteer as a host or hostess for the Sunday morning tea's and coffee's please speak to Fr. Seán anytime.

**2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION** in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £870. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. 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>	<b>61</b>	<b>£262</b>	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>£375</b>	

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### A reading from the book of Exodus [17:3-7] *Give us water to drink.*

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the Lord said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

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### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 94:1-2. 6-9]

**O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord; Hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks, let us hail him with a song of praise.

O come; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the Lords who made us,  
for he is our God and we the people, the people of his pasture,  
the flock of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day as Massah in the desert  
when your forebearers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'



### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [5:1-2. 5-8] *Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us.*

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

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### Gospel Acclamation

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.  
Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**

## Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [4:5-42]

*A spring of water welling up to eternal life.*

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.' Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

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