

## ST. MARK'S PARISH

**26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A**

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

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**MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Bernadette Tucker (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Eileen Morgan (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>James Kelly (Ann)</b>
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Roger Henry (RIP)</b>
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Bridie Hanlon (Ann)</b>
<i>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Terry White (Sp Int)</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>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am			

### The Good Shepherd

The image of the Good Shepherd runs like a thread through the Bible, culminating in the words of Jesus in today's Gospel. In the writings of the prophet Ezekiel 34, it is God himself who declares that he will search for his sheep, rescue them, and shepherd them personally. Because their Human leaders have so far failed, God himself promises his own direct intervention.

This is how God became known as the divine shepherd of Israel - one who guides, feeds, and protects his flock. When Jesus steps into that exact role, he is implicitly identifying himself with the divine shepherd of Israel. The shepherd image is rich with meaning. A shepherd lives among the sheep, knows them individually, and takes responsibility for their well-being. By using this image, Jesus emphasizes that divine authority is expressed through relationship. His statement that he "knows his sheep" and that they recognize his voice suggests a mutual, personal bond rooted in intimacy and care.

By drawing on a familiar and deeply rooted biblical symbol, Jesus reveals a vision of God that is both authoritative and compassionate. The Good Shepherd is not distant or abstract, but present, committed, and self-giving—inviting trust, loyalty, and recognition from those who hear his voice.

He is so bothered about our wellbeing that he even gave his life for us. If we follow him, he leads us in choices which make better sense of our lives; he offers us the food and water of a belief that satisfies our deepest hunger and thirst; when we approach danger he reminds us that there are better places to be; and if we are tempted to wander off, he is always there to welcome us back to the fold. He knows us. And we know we are his.



## 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 to read.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** in your prayers the candidates who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> @7pm here at St. Marks. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit be always fruitful throughout their lives.

**Date for your Diary: Summer party - Saturday evening June 20<sup>th</sup>**

**THE GARDENING GROUP** has started up again and would welcome volunteers. We currently meet on Mondays after Mass to plant/ weed/ cut grass/ whatever until lunch time (10:30-12:30). No gardening experience needed! Just turn up or speak to Fr Seán, Fr Nick or Katy Burns.

**REMINDER - SACRAMENTS 2026 Presentation of the Creed** for all candidates making their Confirmation will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May during the 10am Mass. The names of all candidates registered for St. Mark's Sacramental Programme 2026 are posted on our notice board. **If your child's name is not on the list, please contact Fr. Seán as soon as possible.**

**The Gillis Centre:** The Archdiocese has announced that The Gillis Centre, which has long served as its administrative home, will be placed on the market for sale later this year. This follows a long process of review and time of reflection and discernment about how best to support the mission and future needs of the Archdiocese. The Gillis Centre holds a special place in the life of many, and Archbishop Cushley asks us to keep this transition in our prayers. The Curia team will continue their work there for now and will move to new premises in due course. Further information is available on the Archdiocesan website: [archedinburgh.org/news](http://archedinburgh.org/news)

**SCIAF WEE BOX:** if you availed of a SCIAF WEE BOX during Lent, could you please return it asap as we prepare to count and transfer the funds to SCIAF. Thank you.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> May 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.

**CHARITY FUNDRAISING:** April 100 club draw results and prizes are: **1<sup>st</sup>: #2 Anne Monaghan £40. 2<sup>nd</sup>: #32 Santina Hamilton £15 and 3<sup>rd</sup>: #68 St Mark's School Surprise Gift.** Congratulations to you all.

<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>	<b>71</b>	<b>£331</b>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<b>119</b>	<b>£428</b>	

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 Acts of the Apostles [2:14a, 36-41]**

*God has made him both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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### **Responsorial Psalm [Ps 22:1-6]**

***Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me;  
he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path,  
for the sake of his name.

Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,  
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

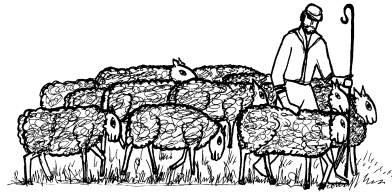
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the LORD's own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending.



### **Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Peter [2:20b-25]**

*You have returned to the shepherd of your souls.*

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls

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**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord,  
I know my sheep and my own know me.  
Alleluia!**

### **Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [10:1-10]**

*I am the door of the sheep.*

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

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