

ST. MARK'S PARISH

3rd May 2026 5th Sunday of Easter Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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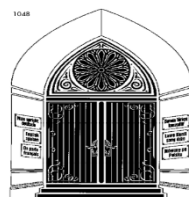
MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 2nd May	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 3rd May		10:00am	Terry White (Sp Int)
Monday 4th May		10:00am	Alex Mitchell (RIP)
Tuesday 5th May		10:00am	Brian Houston (Sp Int)
Thursday 7th May		10:00am	Anne & Andrew Lonie (Sp Int)
Friday 8th May		10:00am	Fr Colin Hughes (Sp Int)
<i>Saturday 9th May</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 10th May</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Marion & Jack Burns (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			

MEMBERS-ONLY OR FREE ADMISSION?

Today's gospel presents us with a dilemma. How important is it for us to know and follow Jesus? If we were just simple, honest, good, kind people wouldn't we be as well off as those who are Christians, and aren't we all going in the same direction anyway? So does it matter whether we are Christian, Jew, Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist etc? Aren't we all trying to serve the same God? In fact, do we really have to believe in God at all as long as we are trying to live good lives? Or on the other hand, when Jesus says that we can only come to the Father through him, does this mean that only those who are baptized and practice their faith will be saved? Does it mean that there is a limit to those who will achieve heaven, and that many well-meaning people are on their way to nowhere since they do not accept Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life?

What a cosmic headache we would have if we had to sort this out! So when the Church interprets today's Gospel it restricts itself to two basic truths of faith. The first is that although for us God's call is to live our lives within the context of the Church, nevertheless God is free to act and offer salvation wherever the Spirit blows, and God continually acts outside the confines of the Church. God is even free to save the atheist and regularly takes care of those we think of as lapsed. The second aspect of today's scripture is that the Way, the Truth and the Life do not just refer to the next world but to our daily lives here on earth. Our faith gives us an added quality of life here on earth. It is not simply an insurance premium we grudgingly pay so that we will get into heaven. To know and follow Jesus is to live life on a deeper, more alive level. It is to breathe the air of faith, to find the way to that truth which makes life worth 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 to read.

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

CAR PARK AT REAR OF CHURCH: the back gate of the church premises is now always opened for Mass on Sundays providing more parking spaces to ease the congestion typically experienced in the front car park. It can also be accessed by going left when you come in the front gate and driving around. Please note that it is for the most part a grassy surface so please mind your step when wet.

ST MARKS SUMMER PARTY Join us on Saturday evening June 20th at 6.30pm in the hall for a wee social gathering over a Hot Buffet - entertainment will be provided by the legendry Gary Coupland (MBE) from the singing Kettle. Tickets available - £10pp – please put in an envelope with your name – or names on it. If anyone would like to donate a prize for our raffle OR for further information, please contact Johnny Bhow McDade, Jacque George or Fr Seán.

THANK YOU to all of those who so generously help out with the Children's Liturgy each of the Sundays throughout the school year. We are extremely blessed and grateful for all their efforts, care and the loving support they give to our wee lambs - the future of our church and country.

REMINDER - SACRAMENTS 2026 Presentation of the Creed for all candidates making their Confirmation will take place on Sunday 3rd 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.**

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend 2nd/3rd 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.

<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	67	£328	
SUNDAY	177	£422	

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 [6:1-7].

They chose seven men full of the Holy Spirit.

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

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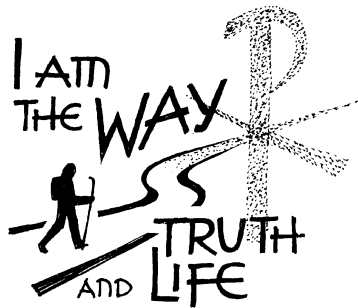
Responsorial Psalm [Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19]

Response: May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you O Lord.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp;
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

The word of the Lord is upright,
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Peter [2:4-9].

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

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Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [14:1-12]

I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

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