ST. MARK'S PARISH

19th July 2026 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year *A*

***Parish Clergy**: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson*
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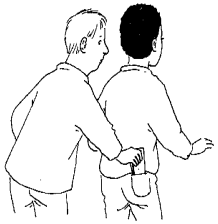
MASS DATES		TIMES	INTENTIONS
Saturday 18th July	**Vigil**	**5:00pm**	**John Duffy (Ann)**
Sunday 19th July		**10:00am**	**People of the Parish**
Monday 20th July		**10:00am**	**Stefan Boron (SpInt)**
Tuesday 21st July		**10:00am**	**Olwyn Fisher (RIP)**
Thursday 23rd July		**10:00am**	**Cathie, Alec & Jim Paterson (RIP)**
Friday 24th July		**10:00am**	**Paul & Sandra Brannigan**
Saturday 25th July	*Vigil*	*5:00pm*	*Abelardo de la Espriella (SpInt)*
Sunday 26th July		*10:00am*	*People of the Parish*

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.
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am

IT'S NOT FAIR?



The parables of Jesus in today's gospel teach us three important points about our world and God's plan. Firstly, we often ask ourselves, just like the people in Jesus' day, why is it that there is so much evil in the world. Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do we constantly hear of awful things happening while God seems to do nothing about it? Jesus tells us that God is not powerless to act. He chooses not to intervene in our world continually, yet he will not allow himself to be ultimately frustrated. For this reason God has given us free will and is a God who allows us our freedom without pulling our strings like mere puppets every time we make a decision. But, the parable says, God is biding his time. Secondly, we find from Jesus that God is incredibly patient and forgiving. If he were to call a snap final judgement tomorrow then we would certainly find ourselves on the losing side. We are not perfect and yet God is forgiving. He lets us have all the time we need, a lifetime in fact, to grow into his love. And he puts up with our faults and failings without rushing to judgement. Every day is a day of grace given to us by God so that we may learn to cooperate with his plan and come to greater holiness. Thirdly, and this is quite disturbing, God is no fool. The parable shows us that when all is said and done God's justice will triumph. What we are doing now, as individuals and society, will affect our eternity. In the parable the weeds and darnel are gathered up and burnt. We will not be burnt literally, but God is giving us the choice of opting for or against him, for his word or against it, for his Son or against him. And when our days are over God will continue to respect our freedom. He will not simply override our lifetime's decisions in some sort of benevolent way. For he has more respect than to treat us as automatons. Words of comfort, words of warning, both from the mouth of Jesus. And his final words are clear: if you have any ears, then listen to what I am saying!

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.

WORK ON THE MAIN WINDOWS OF THE CHURCH will begin at the end of July/beginning of August and could last for about 3 weeks – weather depending of course. During this time the church will not be open for the usual 10am weekday Mass as work will be ongoing. The church will be open for the usual Saturday vigil Mass at 5pm and Sunday morning 10am Mass. Any updates or amendments to this timescale will be announced at the weekend Masses and in the weekly newsletter which is also available on our website.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: July 100 club draw results and prizes are **1st: #62 Angela Ramsay** £40. **2nd: #52 Helen McFadyn** £15 and **3rd: #28 William Dunn** Surprise Gift. Congratulations to you all. That is our last draw until October when we will begin again.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK If you know of a forthcoming visit to hospital involving a serious illness or an operation and you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please speak to Fr Seán and arrange to be anointed before admission.

HOLIDAYS for those who are going away, have a wonderful time, for those who are visiting, welcome, we hope you enjoy your stay and for everyone travelling, have a safe journey.

SPICK AND SPAN: Come and have fun with mops and brushes as we continue in our mission to keep our beautiful church clean and tidy for all the faithful who practice their faith here at St. Mark's. All help is greatly appreciated by everyone - both in heaven and on earth. Tuesday 21/7/2026 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

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.

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 very much appreciated by many a parishioner.

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.

St. Mark's	*ATTENDANCE*	*OFFERTORY*	***Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible***
VIGIL	**66**	***£298***	
SUNDAY	**93**	***£366***	

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 book of Wisdom [12:13. 16-19]

You give repentance for sins.

Neither is there any God besides you, whose care is for all, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly. For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when men doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. You are sovereign in strength but you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the one who is righteous must be kind, and you have filled your sons with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 86(85):5-6. 9-10. 15-16a. ±5a]

Response: **O Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer,
and attend to my voice in supplication.

All the nations you have made shall come;
they will bow down before you, O Lord,
and glorify your name,
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

You, O God, are compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abundant in mercy and fidelity;
turn and take pity on me.

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [8:26-27] *The Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*

Brothers and Sisters: The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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Alleluia, alleluia!
I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.
Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [13:24-43]

Let both grow together until the harvest.

At that time: Jesus put another parable before the crowd, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?" He said to them, "An enemy has done this." So the servants said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he said, "No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' " '

He put another parable before them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable. 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.'

All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet: 'I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.'

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.'

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