

ST. MARK'S PARISH

26th July 2026 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 25th July	Vigil	5:00pm	Abelardo de la Espriella (SpInt)
Sunday 26th July		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 27th July		10:00am	NO MASS
Tuesday 28th July		10:00am	NO MASS
Thursday 30th July		10:00am	NO MASS
Friday 31st July		10:00am	NO MASS
<i>Saturday 1st August</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Robert Mackillop (1st Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 2nd August</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am

Parables of the Kingdom

Over the last two weeks we have been given “The Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven” to meditate upon. Matthew 13 consists of seven Kingdom parables - the sower; the wheat and darnel; the mustard seed; the yeast; the treasure in the field; the pearl of great value and the dragnet. Jesus uses these parables to give us a glimpse of what makes up the Kingdom of Heaven.

With today's liturgy we come to the conclusion of Matthew's discourse on the meaning of the Kingdom of Heaven and we are given the final three parables. The first two parables which explain the kingdom of heaven have a similar pattern, a person finds something of great value and this discovery brings with it great joy. Then the discoverer goes and sells everything in the hope of buying what has been discovered, thus enabling possession of it. They tell us that this Kingdom is essentially a future reality – it is not yet something that someone can possess fully in the present moment. However, they portray something of the great value inherent in the Kingdom – a small glimpse of the Kingdom and what it entails communicates a sense of its true value and immense richness. These parables speak to us not so much about how we ought to act, but rather about what should happen to us when we have discovered the richness of the Kingdom and the transformation that it holds. The prize of the Kingdom is so great that we will do whatever is necessary in order to possess it. The third parable – that of the dragnet cast into the sea continues the theme of the parable of the wheat and darnel that we heard last week. It highlights the theme that good and evil live alongside each other and that at the end of time it is specifically the role of the Lord to separate them – as our time to ultimately choose has forthwith ended.



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.

RIP Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Bernadette Tucker who was recently reborn into eternal Life. Her Funeral service will take place at Mortonhall Crematorium, Pentland Chapel on Tuesday 4th August at 11:30am. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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.

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.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend 1st/2nd Aug 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>	<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>	76	£288	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	123	£414	

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 first book of Kings [3:5-6a, 7-12]

You have asked for yourself understanding.

In those days: The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.'

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 119(118):57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130, R.97a]

Response: O Lord how I love your law.

You, O LORD, are my portion;
I have promised to obey your words.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold.

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways.

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

[8:28-30] *He predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.*

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

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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 [13:44-52]

He sells all that he has and buys that field.

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all these things?' They said to him, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

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