

ST. MARK'S PARISH

9th August 2026 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 8th August	Vigil	5:00pm	Abelardo de la Espriella (SpInt)
Sunday 9th August		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 10th August		10:00am	NO MASS
Tuesday 11th August		10:00am	NO MASS
Thursday 13th August		10:00am	NO MASS
Friday 14th August		10:00am	NO MASS
<i>Saturday 15th August</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 16th August</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Christina Maughan (RIP)</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

ABOVE THE WATER-LINE

One of the more perplexing questions that faces every Christian is to do with how much we are responsible for our own salvation, and how much does it depend simply on God? We have to be clear at the start about one thing: none of us can earn our own salvation. There are no



deeds good enough to force God's hand. It is not as if we can be absolutely bold in claiming our place in heaven just because we have said lots of prayers, been to church each week, given a fortune to charity and founded an international chain of homes for the terminally ill. Eternal life and happiness is a gift beyond all price. In fact, the only person capable of purchasing this gift for us is Jesus. Yet, of course, we know that Jesus has done precisely this by his act of redeeming us ("buying us back") on the cross. He has paid the price for us. So where do we go from here? If

Jesus has claimed us for his Father, is there any point in stirring ourselves into action? Surely, it's in the bag? Maybe we could say, in reply to this dilemma, that since we are aware of the great gift given to us at baptism, we ought to respond by leading lives which reflect God's goodness and concern. So, our good deeds would be the signs that we are trying to live in faith. They would be the signs that we are redeemed but not the cause of our redemption. In other words, if we thought that by being good we were buying heaven, then we've missed the boat. If we thought

that we needn't do good at all because we're already redeemed, then we're beginning to sink. But if we realised that because we've been redeemed then our only response to God should be a life of service, then we're probably above the water-line. It's notable that as soon as Peter thought it was all up to him, he began to sink beneath the waves. His life-raft came when he recognised his need for 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 to read.

WORK ON THE MAIN WINDOWS OF THE CHURCH (W2) continues this week with good progress been made so far. The estimated 3-4 weeks duration for this job seems still very achievable - as long as the weather continues to behave itself. As we continue into week 2 of the job, the church will continue to be closed for the usual 10am weekday Mass. The church will be open for the usual Saturday evening vigil Mass at 5pm and Sunday morning 10am Mass. Any updates or amendments to this schedule will be announced at the weekend Masses and in the weekly newsletter which is also available on our website.

SCHOOL RETURN: please pray for all those involved in our schools. May God bless their efforts as they start a new term

CHILDRENS LITURGY will begin again (a bit later than usual) when the works on the front windows of the church are finished. This will be around the beginning of September. Please watch the newsletter for a definite date.

SCAMS: always on your guard against scammers. Rest assured that you will **never** get a request from anyone at St. Mark's Parish for any type of financial assistance for a priest, parishioner or any parish related concerns via email, phone, text, any type of social media or even from someone who turns up on your doorstep. If you do it is a scam. If you are ever in doubt on anything, never act hastily - always call the parish landline and speak to Fr. Seán or leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. But the odds are that someone is trying to Con You out of your hard-earned money. Don't let them.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING 100 CLUB DRAW Subscriptions (£20) for the upcoming (October to July) 26/27 period are now due. Numbers are still available and we welcome anyone who would like to join. There is one draw each of the 10 months with a 1st, 2nd & 3rd prize. If you would like to join, forms/envelopes are available at the back of the church or you can speak to any of the committee members - Jacquie George, Alma McDonald, Alexander Robbin, Elisa & Colin Armit, Helen MacFadyen and Ann Tobin.

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £1,348. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. 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>
VIGIL	68	£294	
SUNDAY	134	£461	

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 [19:9a, 11-13a]

Stand on the mount before the Lord.

In those days: Elijah reached Horeb, the mount of God. There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him. And he said, 'Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.' And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 85(84):9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14. R.8]

Response: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the LORD God speaks;
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.
His salvation is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have kissed.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and justice look down from heaven.

The LORD will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.
Righteousness will march before him,
and guide his steps on the way.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [9:1-

5] *I wish that I were accursed for the sake of my brothers and sisters.*

Brothers and Sisters: I am speaking the truth in Christ. I am not lying. My conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit — that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers and sisters, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed for ever. Amen.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**I long for you, O Lord,
my soul longs for his word.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [14:22-33]

Command me to come to you on the water.

After the crowd had eaten and were satisfied: Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, 'It is a ghost!' and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.' And Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

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