

ST. MARK'S PARISH

23rd August 2026 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 22nd August	Vigil	5:00pm	Torres Llano Family (RIP)
Sunday 23rd August		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 24th August		10:00am	NO MASS
Tuesday 25th August		10:00am	NO MASS
Thursday 27th August		10:00am	NO MASS
Friday 28th August		10:00am	NO MASS
<i>Saturday 29th August</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Philomena Cairns (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 30th 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			

RE BRANDING

Peter's name wasn't really Peter, as we know. It was Simon. But when Simon boldly professed his belief that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus changed his name for him. He re-branded him.

From now on you will be called Peter, which means a rock, and on this rock I will build my Church. Of course, anyone who knew Peter was well aware that he was anything but a rock. He was quite the opposite, in fact. He was not a steady character but a volatile one, likely to explode rather than remain calm. What Jesus was doing was giving him the opportunity to grow into being something different. The name Jesus gives him is a calling for him to become something which at the moment is beyond his grasp.

When we profess our faith in Jesus, our profession is not like passing a test and receiving a certificate which we can then hang on the wall. It is a statement of commitment to whatever Christ has in store for us. For those who believe in him, Jesus says you may be John or Mary but you will become Christian. The call to become Christian is a dynamic one that doesn't simply let us rest on our laurels but challenges us to a lifetime of growth. Just as Simon had to grow into becoming Peter, so we too have to grow into becoming Christian. Peter's name change meant that he was given a very specific task: to become steady, reliable, firm and rock-like. By changing our name to Christian, God is summoning us to grow, to change and to become something that only we can be, something that God can use for the sake of his kingdom on earth. Are we content to live out the rest of our lives at our current level of faith, or do we yearn to grow in faith, to develop what God has given us and to enjoy a new name?



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 (W4) 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 4 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 be 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 prize of £40, a 2nd prize of £20, & a 3rd prize (which is a Surprise Gift). 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.

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 above listed email address. Please remember that at least one of the child's parents should be a practicing Catholic as should one of the chosen Godparents/Sponsors.

<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>	63	£249	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	138	£416	

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 prophet Isaiah [22:15, 19-23]

I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.

Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, ‘Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: “I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father’s house.” ’

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 138(137):1-2a, 2bc, 3, 6, 8bc. R.8bc]

Response: O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

I thank you, LORD, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple.

I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul.

The LORD is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.



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

[11:33-36] *From him and through him and to him are all things.*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?’ ‘Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?’ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [16:13-20]

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.’ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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