

ST. MARK'S PARISH

13th September 2026 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 12th September	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 13th September		10:00am	Vareed Lonappan (Ann)
Monday 14th September		10:00am	Margaret Jamieson (RIP)
Tuesday 15th September		10:00am	Bill & Rose Hetherington (RIP)
Thursday 17th September		10:00am	Jim Smith (SpInt)
Friday 18th September		10:00am	Clare Grant (RIP)
<i>Saturday 19th September</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Graham Nicol (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 20th September</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			

CREATING VICTIMS

Today's gospel teaches us one of the most important lessons of our faith. Jesus makes no bones about it: if we want to be forgiven then we must first forgive others. "I can never forgive him/her" cannot be part of the Christian's vocabulary. Forgiveness is so central to Christianity that it is the reason why we baptise. We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, says our Creed. And the principal reason we follow Christ is so that we might experience the forgiveness of God and be set free to lead the lives that God intended us to enjoy. The Church is the community of God's forgiven. If we refuse to forgive then we create victims. The first victim is us. When we withhold forgiveness, we take refuge in self-pity. We see ourselves as the one who is hurt and injured, we end up wading in bitterness, anger and resentment. How could anyone do this to me of all people? Me? We allow ourselves to dwell on the memory of hurt and injury and this begins to affect the way we view life, for anger and resentment only eat away at the heart. Lack of forgiveness is a heavy burden to carry. And the second victim we create is the person we refuse to forgive. We keep them chained up with the guilt of what they have done and we prevent them from moving on in their relationship with us. To receive forgiveness is a joyful thing that brings peace of mind, and if we hold back on forgiving someone then we are not playing our part in helping them to move on. Sometimes people forgive in such a way that they humiliate the other person. They are so high-handed that they make the person crawl before they are forgiven. They forgive with their lips but not with their hearts. Yet forgiveness is not something that we possess off our own bat. Forgiveness belongs to God, the same God who has forgiven each of us and who demands that we do the same in return. Living in a place of unforgiveness is a life-depriving and dreadful experience. "And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother and sister from your heart."



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.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING. Please join us for a cuppa, some cake, a raffle and a chat with friends and family on **Saturday 26th September 2026** from 10am – 12 Noon at the home of Maureen Moscrop. Together, over the years we have so far raised over £11,000. Many thanks in advance for your support. For further details please see notice board at back of church.

THANK YOU to everyone involved in welcoming parishioners, preparing hymn books, helping with the offertory collection, flower arranging, counters, children's liturgy, sacristans, cleaners, readers and our musicians. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by all who practice their faith here at St. Marks and are major contributors to the joyful, prayerful and friendly experience shared by all who join us for Mass every week.

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.

OVER THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS Sept 20th, Oct 25th, Nov 22nd and Dec 5th from 1pm to 3pm, St Peter's Parish in Morningside will be holding a series of discussion, reflection, prayer and worship on Deepening our Appreciation of the Eucharist with different themes each month. All are welcome to attend. See notice board at back of church for further details.

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £1,086. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you

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.

<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>	<i>71</i>	<i>£382</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>£399</i>	

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 book of Sirach [27:30-28:7] *Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.*

Anger and wrath, these are abominations, and the sinful man will hold them fast. The one who seeks vengeance will be paid vengeance from the Lord, and he who keeps a record will have his own sins recorded. Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does one person harbour anger against another and yet seek for healing from the Lord? Does he have no mercy towards someone like himself and yet pray concerning his own sins? If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath, who will make atonement for his sins? Remember the end of your life and cease from enmity, remember destruction and death and be true to the commandments. Remember the commandments and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High and overlook error.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-12. R.8]

Response: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

He will not always find fault;
nor persist in his anger for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions.



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

[14:7-9] *Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.*

Brothers and Sisters: None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, just as I have loved you.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [18:21-35]

I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'

'Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'

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