

ST. MARK'S PARISH

20th September 2026 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 19th September Vigil	5:00pm	Graham Nicol (Ann)
Sunday 20th September	10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 21st September	10:00am	Mary Toshney (RIP)
Tuesday 22nd September	10:00am	Donald Highley (RIP)
Thursday 24th September	10:00am	Liz Brunsdon (RIP)
Friday 25th September	10:00am	Bridie Hanlon (SpInt)
<i>Saturday 26th September Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Tam Livingstone (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 27th September</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Harry McLaughlin (Ann)</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

IS GOD UP TO SCRATCH?

You have to laugh at the woman who prayed to St Anthony whenever she lost anything. She couldn't find her car keys and kept asking St Anthony for his help, becoming more and more frustrated while they were still missing. She began to get annoyed with St Anthony until she eventually found the keys and then said to him, "Oh, never mind.

I've found them now!" They do say that the best way to make God laugh is to tell him your plans. There's nothing wrong with having plans, of course, but sometimes God has a very different knowledge of how our life is going to turn out. God doesn't think like us and his ways are vastly different from ours. Isaiah tells us that the gap between our way of thinking and God's is greater than the gap between heaven and earth. And Jesus puts the finishing touch to this by his story of a landowner who paid everyone the same wage no matter how many hours a day they had worked. Why should people be jealous just because God is generous? One of the hardest things for many Christians to understand is that no matter how much we try, we never even come close to knowing how God works. What seems fair to us, God ignores. What seems to be the obvious choice is overlooked, what appears to be the only solution is bypassed by God. This side to God's character is known as his transcendence. It's the "otherness" of God, the fact that God is unfathomable, that we can't ever capture his vital statistics. When we stop trying to think that we can control things in this world by enlisting God on our side, then we begin to learn. Once we accept how little we know about God's ways then we're really on the road to approaching him. Once we reach the point where we simply invite God into our lives and ask him to act for the good, with no conditions attached, then we have a chance of allowing the Spirit to make us holy. God is greater than anything we can imagine or conjure up, and once we grasp this then as well as some mystifying events in our lives there are also a few very pleasant surprises along the way.



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.

PLANNING TO GET MARRIED? Whether you plan to get married in St Mark's Parish Church or any other Catholic Church either Locally, Nationally or Internationally, there are certain criteria that need to be met and things you need to do well in advance of the wedding ceremony. Please contact Fr. Seán or Fr. Nick for all the details you will require to proceed.

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.

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>
VIGIL	65	£277	
SUNDAY	120	£397	

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 [55:6-9]

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your
thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the
heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R.18a]

Response: The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The LORD is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians [1:20c-24, 27a] *For to me to live is Christ.*

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [20:1-16]

Do you begrudge my generosity?

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, “You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.” So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, “Why do you stand here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You go into the vineyard too.”

‘And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, “Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.” And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?” So the last will be first, and the first last.’

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