

ST. MARK'S PARISH

27th September 2026 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 26th September Vigil	5:00pm	Tam Livingstone (Ann)
Sunday 27th September	10:00am	Harry McLaughlin (Ann)
Monday 28th September	10:00am	Elizabeth Mulvenna & Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday 29th September	10:00am	Rapal & Gabriel (SpInt)
Thursday 1st October	10:00am	Rosaine Glover (RIP)
Friday 2nd October	10:00am	John Sanaghan (50th Ann)
<i>Saturday 3rd October Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Martin Family (SpInt)</i>
<i>Sunday 4th October</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		

FIXED PENALTY GOD?

All's fair in love and war, they say. But all's not fair when it comes to Christianity. This is because our human concept of fairness does not even come close to understanding God's creative mixture of justice, mercy and grace. We human beings seem to have an inbuilt sense of justice that is like the old-fashioned shop scales with two buckets. You put the food in one bucket and then balance it with some weights in the other bucket and this tells you the weight that is at stake and the price that must be paid. In fact, we regularly depict Justice as a character holding a pair of scales. Whatever goes into one side has to be weighed up and balanced with a penalty of similar cost. In the early period of the Jewish Kingdoms this even led to a culprit's family being punished for his or her crime although the relatives themselves had done nothing wrong. The scales had to balance. Throughout history God has failed to take any notice of this type of justice. In today's passage from Ezekiel the people are complaining that God is unjust because he allows wrongdoers to live rather than die. Ezekiel points out (speaking on behalf of God) that the weight of punishment should only be exacted against those who stubbornly refuse to admit their sin and to repent. And a similar scene greets us when Jesus discusses with the priests about someone who comes to their senses after behaving badly. They are not to be condemned. This human view of justice and fairness is too crude for God to commit to it, for it leaves no room for manoeuvre, takes no account of the true circumstances of the person involved, and completely abandons any reference to Christ's redeeming sacrifice for sin and the effects of grace. Faced with our faults, God, who has every reason to be indignant, chooses to be forgiving and calls us to be the same with those who offend against us. Yet we obstinately cling to our appeals for "justice" when in fact we often are only interested in revenge. We plead fairness when what we really want is graceless reprisal. God hates sin yet he always views things from a wider perspective of grace and forgiveness. And God's passion for pardon is so strong that while we clamour for the scales to balance, God clamours for a balanced judgement.



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.

CANDLELIGHT REMEMBRANCE MASS FOR ALL SOULS will be celebrated on Monday 2nd November 2026 at 7pm. **The usual 10am morning Mass will not be held that day.** If you would like the name of a loved one who has died to be read out during this Mass, please add their names to the lists provided at the back of the church. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY** – again - **PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY** as a list must be typed up – if I can't make out the name it won't be included. The intention for this Mass will be for All the Souls of the Faithful Departed.

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 for 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.

TENT OF DIVINE MERCY GROUP will meet on the 1st Saturday of the month (03/10/26) at 2pm in front of the Divine Mercy Picture for praise, the chaplet and for intercessory prayers. All are welcome to attend.

MASS INTENTIONS: When requesting a Mass to be said for a specific reason, it would be helpful to use a Mass Intention Envelope detailing the name for whom the Mass is to be offered and the purpose of the intention *ie* death, anniversary, special intention etc. Should a specific date be chosen, Fr Seán & Fr. Nick will endeavour to accommodate this on or as close to the specified date as possible. Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK If you know of a forthcoming visit to hospital involving serious illness or an operation and you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please speak to Fr Seán or Fr Nick and arrange to be anointed before admission. Once in hospital, if you wish the Sacraments [Holy Communion, Confession, Anointing] please ensure that you make your wishes known to the hospital chaplaincy through the charge nurse on the ward. Please do not leave your request to the last minute as you may not be guaranteed an immediate response.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held next weekend 3rd/4th Oct 2026. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you

<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	£326	
SUNDAY	140	£394	

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 Ezekiel [18:25-28]

When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed, he shall save his life.

Thus says the Lord: ‘You say, “The way of the Lord is not just.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. R.6a]

Response: Remember your compassion, O Lord.

O LORD, make me know your ways.

Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are the God of my salvation.

Remember your compassion, O LORD,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth,
nor my transgressions.

In your merciful love remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way.



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

[2:1-11] *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.*

Brothers and Sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [21:28-32]

He changed his mind and went. The tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” And he answered, “I will not”, but afterwards he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, “I go, sir”, but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.’

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