

ST. MARK'S PARISH

30th August 2026 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 29th August	Vigil	5:00pm	Philomena Cairns (Ann)
Sunday 30th August		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 31st August		10:00am	NO MASS
Tuesday 1st September		10:00am	NO MASS
Thursday 3rd September		10:00am	NO MASS
Friday 4th September		10:00am	NO MASS
<i>Saturday 5th September</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 6th September</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>John Pilley (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

BETTER THAN LIFE ITSELF?

This week's Gospel is a continuation of last week's Gospel which saw Jesus eliciting a faith response from the Disciples regarding his identity. It was Peter who spoke for the group, when he proclaimed Jesus as 'the Christ, the Son of the Living God.'

Last week Peter was eager, comfortable and full of faith in proclaiming Jesus as the Son of the Living God. Today Peter cannot accept the words of Jesus – that His mission will entail rejection, suffering and death. This does not add up to the image of the Messiah that Peter had and the reason why he rebukes Jesus – pitting him as a stumbling block to Jesus and his mission. For this, he earns a strong rebuke from Jesus who refers to him as Satan. Quite a different scenario from last week's Gospel. This scene, although it concerns Jesus and Peter becomes a launching pad for Jesus's teaching on the elements of discipleship. After his put down of Peter, Jesus goes on to state that whoever wishes to be a follower of his has to 'renounce himself and take up their cross'. In other words, if we let anything get between us and God then we become cut off from the one thing that can really satisfy our needs.

One of the lines of psalm 62 is quite extraordinary. It simply says, "Your loving mercy is better than life". Better than life? The psalmist is saying that if our life is not centred on what is really important then it's not worth having. If we have found God then we realise that our lives are very short indeed yet the only thing that ultimately matters is that we possess God for eternity. The temptation is to live only half a life, to conform to what our world tells us living is really about. Yet with all its superficial glitter and gloss we know that this sort of shimmering existence can never meet our real needs and aspirations. And those who have found God's love have no need of this tinsel. For, as the psalmist says, "Your loving mercy is better than life." Makes you think, doesn't it?



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 is almost at an end with finishing touches, final sealing, final inspection and scaffold removal due to happen this week – again - all dependant on good weather. 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.

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.

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.

PRAYERS are asked for those parishes in our Archdiocese who are preparing for a change of priests, may they all work together united in their love for God.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend 5th/6th Sept 2026. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you

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>	<i>63</i>	<i>£281</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>£525</i>	

St. Marks's, Oxfangs 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 Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord has become for me a reproach.

O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all the day; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name', there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9. R.2b]

Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water.

I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise.

I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.

For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.



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

[12:1-2] *Present your bodies as a living sacrifice.*

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [16:21-27]

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself.

At that time: Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.'

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