

ST. MARK'S PARISH

20th August 2023 – 20th Sunday of Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 19th August	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 20th August		10:00am	
Monday 21st August		10:00am	Barbara Vece (Sp Int)
Tuesday 22nd August		10:00am	
Thursday 24th August		10:00am	
Friday 25th August		10:00am	
<i>Saturday 26th August</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Sr Nan McKinnon (Sp Int)</i>
<i>Sunday 27th August</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Vareed Lonappan (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.			
EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am Every Thursday Evening 7pm-8pm			

MESSIAH - NOT ONLY OF THE JEWS

When we first start to read the pages of the Bible we get the impression that God is dealing simply with the Hebrew nation. The early accounts tell us about the history of the Jews and how they were God's promised people. However, today's liturgy starts to give us a realisation of the incredible love that God has for all people, irrespective of background or culture. In our first and second reading today we hear very plainly that Jesus came to save all mankind – not just the Jewish people. This was revolutionary and revolting to some Jewish ears. How can they live alongside people who come from pagan territories – lands that are attributed with being unclean because their people practice a different religion?

In the paragraph that precedes our gospel reading for today [15:1-20] Jesus is involved in a rather long discussion in response to criticism levelled at him by the Pharisees and scribes regarding his lack of adherence to the traditional laws of purity – what was 'clean' or 'unclean'. Here Jesus insists that 'uncleanness' - what renders a person incapable of worship emanates from within a person – from their heart - not from any external element.

In fact, Jesus stresses that it is the deep, constant and persistent faith of this Canaanite woman that has allowed him to grant her request. In doing so, he portrays himself as the Messiah not only of the Jews but also of all people. This passage allows us to rejoice in the fact that God's love and mercy are boundless and knows no limits. The challenge for us then, is to recognise and break down any barriers that impact on our relationship with other people and to recognise that all those who are open to God's ways are part of God's salvific plan. Nowhere in scripture can we find any evidence of God turning his back on someone just because they didn't fit the bill. There is no support for a God who leaves people wanting when they call on him in good faith.

WE
believe in
ONE GOD

PARISH NEWS

WELCOME If you are just visiting our parish today or if this is the first time you have been to Mass for a while, welcome back! We hope our time together unites us in God's love.

ST MARKS SUMMER PARTY Join us on Saturday evening August 26th at 6.30pm in the hall for a wee social gathering over a Hot Buffet - entertainment will be provided & BYOB. Tickets available - £10 – please put in an envelope with your name – or names on it), If anyone would like to donate a prize for our raffle OR for further information, please contact Ann Allan (07879 408 801) Johnny Bhoys McDade, Fr Nick or Fr Seán.

SECOND COLLECTION: this weekend for African Missions and Holy Places. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

SCHOOL RETURN: please pray for all those involved in our schools. May God bless their efforts as they start a new term.

WHY WOULDN'T YOU? Spend an hour in Adoration praying before the Lord. You can pray the rosary for your family, friends and loved ones, pray for the conversion of others and for vocations for your parish (the Priesthood was instituted by Jesus on Holy Thursday so traditionally, Thursdays have been set aside as a day to pray for priests and for vocations), you can read and meditate on your favourite passages from the Bible, pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for those nearing the end of their lives or you can simply enjoy the silence, peace and tranquillity of the Lord's presence as he lovingly listens to your heart speaking to him. Your presence and commitment of one hour to the Lord is a prayer in itself.

CHILDRENS LITURGY: recommences again this weekend 19th & 20th of August. We look forward to seeing you all again at St. Mark's.

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.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY MASS: Everyone is welcome to come into the hall after Mass on Sundays for a friendly cuppa tea/coffee, a munch and a chat. Thank you to all the hosts and hostesses of this Post Sunday Mass Refreshment Group, you are doing a great job and your efforts are appreciated by many a parishioner.

MASS INTENTIONS: When requesting a Mass to be said for a specific reason, it would be helpful to use a Mass Intention Envelope for each request detailing the name for whom the Mass is to be offered and the purpose of the intention *i.e.* death, anniversary, special intention etc. Although it may not always be possible to fulfil every request - should a specific date be chosen, however Fr Seán & Fr. Nick will endeavour to accommodate all requests as close to the specified date. Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

<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>59</i>	<i>£215</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>£428</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [56:1. 6-7]

I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

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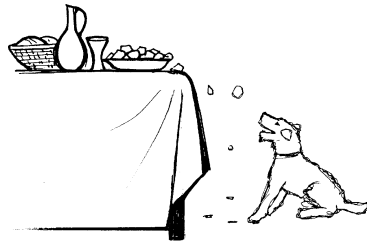
Responsorial Psalm [Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8.]

***Response: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.***

O God be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.



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

[11:13-15. 29-32] *With Israel, God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.*

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me.**

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [15:21-28]

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel'. But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs'. She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table'. Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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