

ST. MARK'S PARISH

3rd September 2023 – 22nd Sunday of Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

Parish Office, 29 Oxfangs Avenue., Edinburgh, EH13 9HX Tel: **0131 441 3915**

Email: stmarksoxfangs@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarkschurch-edinburgh.org.uk

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.

THANK YOU to all those who worked so tirelessly ensuring the success and enjoyment of our summer party on Saturday night. Your efforts were very much appreciated by everyone who came and a great time was had by all.

BARGE TRIP Thank you to those who organised the recent Barge trip. A wonderful time was had by all and we look forward to the next outing.

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, diocese or the world in general - (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.

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.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK If you know of a forthcoming visit to hospital involving a 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.

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.

MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 2nd September Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 3rd September	10:00am	Harry McLaughlin (Ann)
Monday 4th September	10:00am	Mary Boyle (Ann)
Tuesday 5th September	10:00am	Jack Donaldson (Sp Int)
Thursday 7th September	10:00am	Bridget McCole (Ann)
Friday 8th September	10:00am	Morgan Family (Sp Int)
<i>Saturday 9th September Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Charley McAuley (Ann)</i>
<i>Sunday 10th 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 Every Thursday Evening 7pm-8pm		

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 love 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 love is better than life." Makes you think, doesn't it?



<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>78</i>	<i>£390</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>£300</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord has meant insult for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: Violence and ruin! The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

© 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd, and Doubleday and Co Inc., and used by permission.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 62:2-6. 8-9]

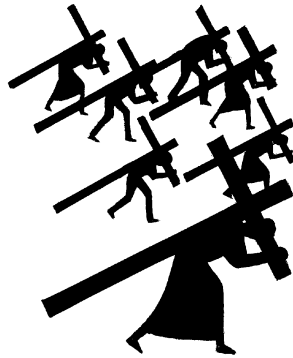
Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

So 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,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

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



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

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

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

© 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd, and Doubleday and Co Inc., and used by permission.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

**enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope
his call holds for us.**

Alleluia!

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

If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord;' he said 'this must not happen to you'. But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.

© 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd, and Doubleday and Co Inc., and used by permission.