

ST. MARK'S PARISH

27th August 2023 – 21st Sunday of Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 26th August	Vigil	5:00pm	Sr Nan McKinnon (Sp Int)
Sunday 27th August		10:00am	Vareed Lonappan (Ann)
Monday 28th August		10:00am	
Tuesday 29th August		10:00am	Graham Nicol (Ann)
Thursday 31st August		10:00am	Molly & John Wilson
Friday 1st September		10:00am	
<i>Saturday 2nd September</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 3rd September</i>		<i>10:00am</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			

RE BRANDING

Peter's name wasn't really Peter, as we know. It was Simon. But when Simon boldly professed his belief that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus changed his name for him. He re-branded him.

From now on you will be called Peter, which means a rock, and on this rock I will build my Church. Of course, anyone who knew Peter was well aware that he was anything but a rock. He was quite the opposite, in fact. He was not a steady character but a volatile one, likely to explode rather than remain calm. What Jesus was doing was giving him the opportunity to grow into being something different. The name Jesus gives him is a calling for him to become something which at the moment is beyond his grasp.

When we profess our faith in Jesus, our profession is not like passing a test and receiving a certificate which we can then hang on the wall. It is a statement of commitment to whatever Christ has in store for us. For those who believe in him, Jesus says you may be John or Mary but you will become Christian. The call to become Christian is a dynamic one that doesn't simply let us rest on our laurels but challenges us to a lifetime of growth. Just as Simon had to grow into becoming Peter, so we too have to grow into becoming Christian. Peter's name change meant that he was given a very specific task: to become steady, reliable, firm and rock-like. By changing our name to Christian, God is summoning us to grow, to change and to become something that only we can be, something that God can use for the sake of his kingdom on earth. Are we content to live out the rest of our lives at our current level of faith, or do we yearn to grow in faith, to develop what God has given us and to enjoy a new name?



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.

2nd COLLECTION for African Missions and Holy Places last weekend realised a combined donation of £436.88. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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.

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.

<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>65</i>	<i>£221</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>£465</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [22:19-23]

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8]

Response: Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.



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

[11:33-36] *All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him*

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself,
and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [16:13-20]

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets'. 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God'. Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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