

ST. MARK'S PARISH

8th October 2023– 27th Sunday of Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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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.

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.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: The first 100 club draw will be held this Sunday. prizes are 1st:£30 2nd:£10 and 3rd:£10 to be paid out 10 times a year. Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join. Teddy bear Tombola will also take place this Sunday. Tickets £1 A prize every time!

MASS FOR ALL SOULS is being planned for Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 7:00pm. If you would like the name of a loved one who has died read out during this Mass, please add their names to the lists provided at the back of the church.

PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY. The intention for this Mass will be for All the Souls of the Faithful Departed. There will not be a 10am mass.

OCT, NOV & DEC issues of Living Faith booklets are now available at the back of the church. **Oct & Nov** issues of **My Day by Day** booklets are also available at the back of the church.

GIFT AID:if anyone would like to participate in this very beneficial and free source of additional revenue for St. Mark's or would like more information on how easy the Gift Aid Scheme really is, please speak to Fr. Seán, Fr. Nick. Catherine Burns or Paul Drury. Thank you for your generosity, it is very much appreciated and helps us to maintain the much needed work of our parish

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £2,284. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

COPPERS WEIGHING YOU DOWN? You can put them in a jar at the back of the church in aid of the building fund. All donations are gratefully received.

SEARCHING FOR JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK: St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh hosts five evenings of special talks with US theologian Professor James Edwards. **Begins 23rd October.** See poster on notice board at back of church for further details. Tickets/details at bit.ly/Jesus-in-GospelofMark

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

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| Saturday 7th September Vigil | 5:00pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday 8th October | 10:00am | Massimo Pernigotti |
| Monday 9th October | 10:00am | |
| Tuesday 10th October | 10:00am | Rose Kelly |
| Thursday 12th October | 10:00am | John Pettigrew (Ann) |
| Friday 13th October | 10:00am | |
| <i>Saturday 14th October Vigil</i> | <i>5:00pm</i> | |
| <i>Sunday 15th October</i> | <i>10:00am</i> | <i>People of the Parish</i> |
| <u>CONFESSIONS</u> 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. | | |
| <u>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:</u> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am Every Thursday Evening 7pm-8pm | | |

LOSING THE PLOT?

As Christians we walk a delicate tightrope. On the one hand we can fall into the trap of thinking that everything depends on us, that by our own efforts we can achieve salvation. On the other hand we can become so intent on the fact that only God's grace can bring salvation that we end up sitting back and letting God get on with it without lending a hand. People who think everything depends on them tend to be great activists - people of petitions, badges, protests and placards. In the past they were the people who said lots of rosaries, recited numerous litanies and were always found at the nearest religious gathering. They were also first to volunteer for the soup kitchen, the Justice Group and the parish amenities committee. At the other end of the scale are those people who may well pray a lot but are slow to take up any sort of active Christian role within their community. Maybe they too are seen at church on Sundays and at diocesan gatherings of prayer. But their main concern is making themselves holy by putting practical issues in second place so that they can contemplate God who will save them. Isaiah and Matthew both recount similar stories today about a vineyard. In Isaiah the owner (God) of the vineyard (his people Israel) plants fine vines and does everything possible to grow good grapes but the plot only produces sour grapes. So the owner threatens to turn it into scrubland. In Matthew we hear Jesus saying that the tenants who aren't producing fruit from the land will be evicted from it. Nothing you can ever do will get you into heaven. Only Christ can get you there. But if you just sit back and pray while watching others doing the work then you've already lost the plot. And the grapes.



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| <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>£200</i> | |
| <i>SUNDAY</i> | <i>135</i> | <i>£428</i> | |

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [5:1-7]

The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20]

Response: The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians [4:6-9]

The God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [21:33-43]

He will lease the vineyard to other tenants.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? "I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."

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