

ST. MARK'S PARISH

22nd October 2023 – 29th Sunday of Year A

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES	TIMES	INTENTIONS
Saturday 21st October	Vigil	5:00pm
		<i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 22nd October	10:00am	
		<i>Grace Cooney (Ann)</i>
Monday 23rd October	10:00am	
Tuesday 24th October	10:00am	
		Kerr Family (Sp Int)
Thursday 26th October	10:00am	
		Marie Graham
Friday 27th October	10:00am	
		Paddy Boyle (Ann)
<i>Saturday 28th October</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>
		<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 29th October</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	
		<i>Margaret Boyle (Ann)</i>
<p>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.</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am Every Thursday Evening 7pm-8pm</p>		

NO EASY ANSWERS

We're all familiar with the trap the Herodians and the Pharisees set for Jesus, asking whether it was right for a Jew to pay allegiance to Caesar. Jesus must have been making a strong impact because this alliance between Herodians and Pharisees (who hated each other) was such an unlikely one. We all know Jesus' answer: ***"give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God."*** We live side by side with two kingdoms: the kingdom of secular government and the kingdom of God. Week by week, month by month, we find ourselves faced with circumstances where one conflicts with the other. e.g., we recognise the State's right to levy taxes, but we might have problems with the sort of medical or social services they provide with the money they raise. We recognise our right to defend ourselves, but we might have trouble with wars and campaigns that our governments lead us into. Christians say that there is nothing that does not belong to God, so God must come first in all things. When earthly authority is opposed to what we believe is God's authority how do we react? In this regard our conscience can seem to be both a blessing and a curse because we cannot blindly follow rules and regulations; our consciences (if they are correctly formed) should compel us to act in accordance with what we believe to be God's will for humanity. Today's reading is a classic example of how the gospel does not seem to provide us with all the answers. The good news is good news, but it also challenges us to be just as adult about the things of God as we have become about the things of Caesar. And vice versa.



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.

SACRAMENTS 2023/2024 for children who are not attending a catholic school and would like to enrol for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation in 2024, please contact the Parish Office via email or phone and request an application form.

SECOND COLLECTION This weekend (22/10) in aid of Missio. There will be boxes at the back of the church for anyone wishing to donate to this cause.

PLEASE NOTE Clocks move **BACK** one-hour next weekend.

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 morning mass on that day. **LISTS WILL CLOSE NEXT WEEKEND. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

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.

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

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

<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>
VIGIL	72	£305	
SUNDAY	140	£410	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [45:1. 4-6]

I have taken Cyrus by his right hand to subdue nations before him.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10]

Response: Give the Lord glory and power.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians [1:1-5]

We constantly remember your faith, your love and your hope.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

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Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [22:15-21]

Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

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