

## ST. MARK'S PARISH

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B**

**Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson**

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### MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Moyra Whelan (1<sup>st</sup> Ann)</b>
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Julia Armit (Ann)</b>
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Eileen Morgan (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Ann Edge (RIP) Birthday</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Bee Martin (Ann)</b>
<i>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	
<i>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>CONFESSIONS</b> 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.		
<b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm		

### Faithfully Waiting & Hoping

Today, being the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new Liturgical Year. We are entering Year 'B' – the Year of Mark. This season of Advent is often seen as a little or mini-Lent. The season of Advent focuses more on waiting than it does on things penitential, even though the liturgical colour is purple or violet. The First Sunday of Advent usually focuses on the theme of the end time – the second coming of Jesus Christ. The Gospel today calls us to vigilance. Something is coming that we dare not miss! Mark tells us quite dramatically: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come'. This theme of waiting and vigilance forms the first part of this particular Sunday of Advent. We encounter our second theme in the First Reading - that of people crying out to the Lord for the many sufferings that they are enduring. This has been the age-old inheritance of mankind since the beginning of the world and it allows us to see that the answer to this pain and suffering is fixed on the hope that one places in the Day of the Lord. As we begin this Advent season, we have the opportunity once again to recall the many encounters we have experienced calling us to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. These encounters are found in the ordinary events of our daily lives. If we are willing to reach out in faith and hope while we are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; then, as St. Paul says in our second reading, he will keep us on a steady path and without blame until he comes again, because God, by calling you, has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.



## 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Charlotte Maren Walker and Imogen Ellen Walker, daughters of John and Jennifer, who were baptised in St Mark's church last weekend. We welcome them as children of God.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all of our parishioners here at St Mark's as we begin our New Liturgical Year with the first Sunday of Advent.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend (3/12). Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 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.

**ST MARKS CHRISTMAS PARTY Grown-ups** - Join us on Saturday evening **December 9<sup>th</sup>** at 6.30pm in the hall for a wee social gathering over a Hot Buffet. **Growing-ups** - Join us on Sunday morning **December 10<sup>th</sup>** for our Children's Christmas Party at 11.30am – 1pm (ish) in the hall. Entertainment will be provided for each Shin-Dig. **Grown-ups** - tickets £10pp – please put in an envelope with your name – or names on it and give to any of the names listed below. **Growing-ups** – no charge (but need to know Name, Age and Gender – for Santa). If anyone would like to donate a prize for our Grown-ups raffle OR a wee gift for our children's party on Sunday morning please contact Jacquie George, Johnny Bhoj McDade, Fr Nick or Fr Seán.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** normally held weekly on Thursday evening from 7-8pm will now be held on a monthly basis on the first Thursday of each month from 7-8pm in the evening.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** and Advent Candles are now on sale at the back of the church for anyone thinking of sending Christmas wishes to a friend, family or loved ones at this very special time of the year. Advent Calendars are also on sale - the proceeds of which will go to SCIAF & Mary's Meals.

**2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION** for Catholic Education last weekend realised a combined donation of £253. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

<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>75</i>	<i>£302</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>£440</i>	

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [63:16-17; 64:1.3-8]**

*Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

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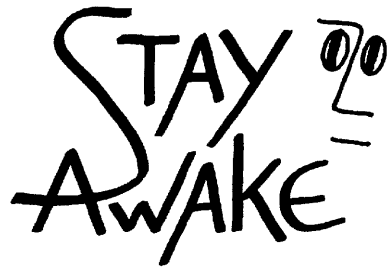
### **Responsorial Psalm [Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19]**

***Response: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.***

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

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.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.



### **Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [1:3-9]**

*We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

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**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy**

**And give us your saving help.**

**Alleluia!**

### **Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [13:33-37]**

*Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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