

ST. MARK'S PARISH

14th January 2024 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 13th January	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 14th January		10:00am	Genoveffa Alonzi (RIP)
Monday 15th January		10:00am	Johnny BhoymcDade (Sp Int)
Tuesday 16th January		10:00am	Rita Sloey (RIP)
Thursday 18th January		10:00am	Ann Sweeney & Family (Sp Int)
Friday 19th January		10:00am	Tom Wolverton (RIP)
<i>Saturday 20th January</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 21st January</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	Matteo Pernigotti & Elisa Rago
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.			
EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

SELECTIVE HEARING

Every time Tom ate his favourite meal, his wife's dumpling stew, he got a pain in his foot later that night. He went to the doctor and found out that the stew was causing him to have gout. When he returned home his wife asked what the doctor had said, and Tom replied, "He said I'm going to have gout three times a week." Sometimes we only hear what we want to hear. Eli and his family had long since stopped listening to what God was telling him, and in today's reading God decides to bypass Eli and turn his attention to Samuel, the young boy. At least Samuel was alert: Speak, Lord; your servant is listening.

This week and next week we're going to see in the gospels how Jesus began calling people to be his disciples and inviting them to come and see what he wanted of them. And what he wanted of them was that they should change and embrace his teaching. Today we see that change reflected in a change of name for Simon: he is from now on to be known as Cephas (Peter) which means a rock. If we're not careful we can miss the point of these biblical stories about the calling of Samuel and the calling of the disciples. We can end up thinking that it's all about events that happened long ago. But it's not. The truth is that God never stops calling. Not only is God calling people to serve him today, but he's still calling you and me. God doesn't pick us out to become Christians when we are young and then simply put our names in the book. God calls us every single day to go beyond where we were yesterday in serving him. God uses people and events around us to speak to our hearts, to call out to us, to dare us to give more of ourselves that we might hitherto have been prepared to give. God's call is not static but dynamic. He's always looking for more from us and his call is fresh every morning. Taking part in worship is an outward sign that we are prepared to be spoken to by God and are ready to listen to what is asked of us. To be a disciple of Jesus means to be continually listening out for God's voice (like Samuel) in the sights and sounds that are woven through our lives. Otherwise, we may end up just hearing what we want to hear. And that's the road that leads to gout!



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.

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.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: January 2024 100 club draw results and prizes are: **1st: #12 Peter Matulaitis £30. 2nd: #15 Alma McDonald £10 and 3rd: #02 Ann Monaghan £10.** Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join. In December St Marks sent £614 to SCIAF and £555 to Mary's Meals. Thank you for your continued contributions.

REMINDER to parents of all children making **First Confessions, First Holy Communions** or **Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held on Sunday 4th February during 10am Mass. All application forms must be received prior to this. A meeting of parents of children making their first Confession is set for January 15th @7pm in the church hall. A meeting of parents of children making their First Holy Communion is set for January 22nd @7pm in the church hall and for parents of children making their Confirmation February 5th @7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all over these coming weeks.

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. Best wishes for 2024.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend (21/01) in aid of Justice & Peace. There will be boxes at the back of the church for anyone wishing to donate to this cause.

2nd COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £2,468. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you.

WILLING HELPERS The next day for group cleaning of the church will be Tuesday 16/01/2024 after the morning Mass. All help is appreciated if only for an hour. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon. Tea and biscuits afterwards!

<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>71</i>	<i>£260</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>£395</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the first book of Samuel [3:3-10.19] *Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.*

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 39:2-4. 7-10]

Response: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [6:13-15, 17-20] *Your bodies are members making up the body of Christ.*

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.**

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [1:35-42] *They saw where he lived, and stayed with him.*

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' - which means Teacher - 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' - which means the Christ - and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' - meaning Rock © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd, and Doubleday and Co Inc., and used by permission.