

ST. MARK'S PARISH

28th January 2024 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 27 th January	Vigil	5:00pm	Jimmy Jervis (RIP)
Sunday 28 st January		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 29 th January		10:00am	Anne De Boucherville Baissac (RIP)
Tuesday 30 th January		10:00am	Rosalind MacKay (Sp Int)
Thursday 1 st February		10:00am	Monsignor Joseph Glover (RIP)
Friday 2 nd February		10:00am	Teddy Lumanglas (Ann)
Saturday 3 rd February	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 4 th February		10:00am	Maureen McKay (RIP)
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			

ON WHOSE AUTHORITY?

There are two types of authority. One type goes with the job. Most people do what they are asked when approached by a police officer because they recognise that this person carries a certain authority. This authority demands that people obey it. It's the same type of authority that a teacher might claim over the pupils or students in a school. Or maybe it's your boss at work who demands this authority, and it's better to knuckle under than to lose your job.



The second type of authority is one that is earned. We might agree that a particular politician carries a good deal of authority because of their track record. They've earned the respect. You might choose to send your child to a piano teacher because he or she has a reputation for bringing out the best in those they teach. Footballers may hold their manager in esteem not because he has the power to sack them but because he knows what he's talking about and has won shed loads of cups and trophies.

From the outset of his gospel St Mark points out that Jesus spoke with authority. The authority he had was the type that he earned because of what he said. He knew what he was talking about, and in today's reading people comment on how what he says and does seems to make sense. Even spirits obey him.

Strangely, the word "authority" in Latin is connected with the word that means to "grow". If a person has true authority, then what they teach makes people grow; it improves the situation; it makes things better. When people heard Jesus preaching, they saw that what he taught was not some code of rules and regulations but was a message that improved people's situation. He cured people, set their minds at rest, forgave them, lifted them up, gave them back their self-esteem and set them on the path that leads to happiness. He offered them something that made sense in the here and now and which beckoned them to a future of eternal happiness. That was the basis of his authority and that's why people who heard his message followed him. And it's the only reason why today we still do.

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. All application forms must be received prior to Feb 4th.

SECOND COLLECTION in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held Next weekend 3/4 Feb 2024. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you.

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.

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 for parents of children making their Confirmation is scheduled for February 5th @ 7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all then.

SCIAF – LENTEN Wee BOXES are now available at the back of the church for anyone interested in participating in this charitable cause beginning on Ash Wednesday Feb 22nd Please take one home and return it on Palm Sunday.

2nd COLLECTION for Justice and Peace last weekend realised a combined donation of £139.57. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

PPC MEETING is scheduled for Monday 29th January @ 7pm. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

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.

St. Mark's	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</i>
VIGIL	65	£206	
SUNDAY	140	£387	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy [18:15-20]

I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth.

Moses said to the people: Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. Do not let me hear again you said the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die; and the Lord said to me, All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 94:1-2. 6-9]

Response: **O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'



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

Corinthians [7:32-35] *An unmarried woman can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

**Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [1:21-28]

He taught them with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority. In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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