

ST. MARK'S PARISH

18th February 2024 – 1st Sunday of Lent Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 17th February	Vigil	5:00pm	William Forker (Ann)
Sunday 18th February		10:00am	Antho Longmore (1st Ann)
Monday 19th February		10:00am	Anne Timoney (Sp Int)
Tuesday 20th February		10:00am	Janina Straczynska (Ann)
Thursday 22nd February		10:00am	Ann Allan (Sp Int)
Friday 23rd February		10:00am	FUNERAL BRIAN FORDE
<i>Saturday 24th February</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 25th February</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Annam Vareed (Ann)</i>
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			

DO-IT-YOURSELF GRACE?

One of the problems with temptation is that we can sometimes only recognise it after it's over. When we are actually being tempted we can sometimes perceive that what's been offered is somewhat normal - in today's world. Our society is hooked on the idea that we can improve ourselves by our own merits. Buy a self-help book and you'll be able to levitate, speak Yiddish in three days and cook gourmet meals while composing your latest harpsichord sonata. All you have to do is pull yourself together and make the effort.



Sometimes Christians are guilty of borrowing this flawed attitude and applying it to the way we relate to God and the way we deal with the spiritual challenges of our lives. So we end up thinking that when it comes to temptation the only solution is to be firm, to exercise our willpower and everything will fall into place. This is usually referred to as the "muscular Christian" syndrome. But however the many little victories we may win by using this method, the only way to defeat temptation permanently is recognise that we need God's help, God's grace, the life of his Spirit. We cannot save ourselves; only Jesus Christ can. We cannot flex our spiritual muscles and overcome sin; only God's grace can do that for us. If it were otherwise, then there would have been no need for Christ to die on the cross.

As this Lent begins, we are reminded that temptation is part of daily life. But we are offered another forty days to seek out God's Spirit, to look for his life, to find the grace to resist temptation. And when we see others who have fallen at the hurdles of temptation, we become aware that we can only do it with the grace of God.

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.

RIP Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Brian Forde who was recently reborn into eternal Life. His Requiem Mass will be held on Friday 23rd February at 10am in St. Mark's and thereafter to Currie cemetery for 11.30am. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held every Monday evening during Lent at 7:00pm in St. Mark's, beginning on Monday 19th Feb.

SCHOOL MASS: On Thursday 22nd Feb the children of St. Mark's Primary school will join us for our 10am daily Mass.

12 VOLUNTEERS are being sought to participate in our Easter Triduum celebration for the Vigil Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (March 28th) to have their feet washed. Sign-up sheets are available at the back of the church for anyone interested.

REMINDER to parents of children making their **First Confessions**, the Presentation of the Cross will be held on Sunday 25th February during 10am Mass. I look forward to seeing you all there.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: December 100 club draw results and prizes are: **1st: #39 Pat McBean £30. 2nd: #35 Janet Wilson £10 and 3rd: #9 Peter Matulaitis £10.** Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join.

World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March 2024 This year St Mark's is hosting this Ecumenical service. It has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine. Please join us at **11am** for a short service followed by refreshments in the hall. More details are on the poster at the back of the church.

ST. MARK'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 The names of all children registered for the Sacraments of First Confessions, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are posted on our notice board. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive these sacraments in the coming months. Parents should make sure that their children's names are on the list. **If your child's name is not on the list, please contact Fr. Seán or Fr. Nick as soon as possible.**

WILLING HELPERS The next day for group cleaning of the church will be Tuesday 20/02/2024 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>	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</i>
VIGIL	66	£265	
SUNDAY	140	£456	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the book of Genesis [9:8-15]

God's Covenant with Noah after he had saved him from the waters of the flood.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again'.

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

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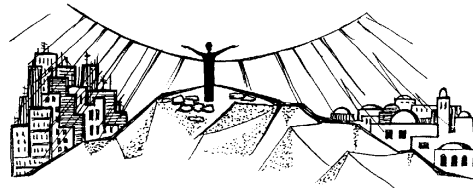
Responsorial Psalm [24:4-5.6.7.8-9]

Response: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St Peter [3:18-22]

That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

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Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
But on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [1:12-15]

Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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