

**ST. MARK'S PARISH**

**28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year B**

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

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**MASS DATES                      TIMES                      INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>James Kelly (Ann)</b>
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>S.P.R.E.D. Family (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Catherine McInnes (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Sr Margaret Service (RIP)</b>
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Isobel D'Inverno (Sp Int)</b>
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>FUNERAL Ann Allan</b>
<i>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Brian Forde (RIP)</i>
<i>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<p><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.</p> <p><b>EUCARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Every Tuesday &amp; Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm</p>			

**CHRISTLESS CHRISTIANITY?**

Have you ever watched the TV and seen a report about someone who is doing sterling work, helping people and making a real difference to the world around them? And then you find out they don't even believe in God? That's because you don't have to believe in God to do good and you don't have to be a Christian to make a difference to the world. But today Jesus tells us that only those who "remain" or "abide" in him will be following the Christian path. So what does it mean to "remain" in him? A vine branch is lifeless and useless unless it remains attached to the vine. Inside it there is living sap that flows throughout the vine into each of the branches enabling each branch to produce fruit. For us to abide in the vine means that we are going to be people who are depending upon Christ and who are allowing the power and the Spirit of Christ to flow through us and in us. So, remaining in the vine means living our lives with the Trinity consciously present within us. If we do this will we bear fruit that will last as we become more and more like Christ. For when we "remain" attached to the vine, we become more like Jesus. When we become more like Jesus we pray more and we treat people more like Jesus did, talk to people like Jesus did and we are prepared to go that extra mile like Jesus did. One of the great risks that we run is to think that by our own effort we can make ourselves better and that we can make a lasting difference to our world. Yet Jesus reminds us that we are only branches of the vine and that branches cannot bear fruit all by themselves. We need to be attached to the trunk of the vine itself. At the start of each day are we conscious of "remaining" in Christ? Do we speak to Christ during our waking hours? Do we ask for help and support in the decisions we make? Are our lives a go-it-alone affair or are they lived in God's presence? Anyone who bears fruit is doing something good. But Jesus tells us that only if we "remain" in him and are part of the vine will our fruit last.



**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.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD, ADORATION & BENEDICTION** will be held every Monday evening during the Easter Season at 7pm in St. Mark's beginning on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** When requesting a Mass to be said for a specific reason, it would be helpful to use a Mass Intention Envelope for each request detailing the name for whom the Mass is to be offered and the purpose of the intention *ie* death, anniversary, special intention etc. Although it may not always be possible to fulfil every request - should a specific date be chosen, however Fr Seán & Fr. Nick will endeavour to accommodate all requests as close to the specified date. Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

**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.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK** If you know of a forthcoming visit to hospital involving serious illness or an operation and you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please speak to either 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.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE – CALLED TO CARE, NOT TO KILL:** A pastoral letter from the Bishops of Scotland is available at the back of the church to take home and read. Please contact your MSP today to stop assisted suicide becoming legal in Scotland. Guidance on contacting your MSPs is available at [www.rcpolitics.org/assistedsuicide](http://www.rcpolitics.org/assistedsuicide) or email [office@rcpolitics.org](mailto:office@rcpolitics.org) for more information.

**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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION** in aid of the Ecclesiastical Students Fund last weekend realised a combined donation of £172.45. 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>68</i>	<i>£345</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>£291</i>	

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles [9:26-31]

*Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey.*

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

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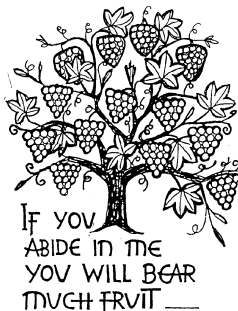
### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 21:26-28. 30-32]

*Response:* **You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.**

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.  
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.  
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,  
all families of the nations worship before him.  
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.  
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,  
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:  
'These things the Lord has done.'



### Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St John [3:18-24]

*His commandments are these: that we believe in his Son and that we love one another.*

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

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**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.**

**Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.**

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [15:1-8]

*Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

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