

ST. MARK'S PARISH

4th August 2024 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 3rd August	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 4th August		10:00am	John Pilley (Ann)
Monday 5th August		10:00am	Fr. Daniel Boyd (RIP)
Tuesday 6th August		10:00am	
Thursday 8th August		10:00am	Gerry McKenna (RIP)
Friday 9th August		10:00am	Anne Linda Bechelli (RIP)
<i>Saturday 10th August</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 11th August</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Mike Moores (RIP)</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.			
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

MIXED MOTIVES

Have you ever wondered why people practise the religion they do? Take Christianity, for example. The essence of Christianity is love of God through love of neighbour. In other words, to be a Christian is to put others always before yourself. It means being at the service of whoever is in need. It's not rocket science to see that this approach to life is going to cause Christians a good deal of inconvenience, not to mention suffering and hardship at times. That's why one of Christianity's mottoes is about carrying your cross. A more natural way of life would be to feather your own nest, to make sure that you are well provided for and comfortable and then, if it took your fancy, to think about helping others, provided that they weren't too much of a nuisance. So why do we do what we do? Some people think that religion is a sort of insurance policy that they take out to give themselves a soft landing in the afterlife. At best we can say that they see this way of living as qualifying them for eternal life. Their motivation is the reward of heaven. Other individuals have ulterior motives for practising their religion. Sometimes these are harmless, like enjoying the company of other people or feeling good after a good Church sing-along. Not so helpful ulterior motives could be the desire to be seen as part of the religious community for social reasons or to get votes in an election. This is to use religion for other purposes. Of course, there are folk who espouse Christianity because they are absolutely convinced by the teaching of Jesus; it makes sense of life here and now and it offers the best chance of living life to the full. They can see the wisdom of it all and can appreciate what God is promising on both sides of the grave. In today's gospel Jesus looks at the crowd and sees all the above types of people: those who believe because they have seen the signs and those who believe because they have had all the bread they wanted to eat. Which are you?



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.

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 a serious illness or an operation and you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please speak to 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.

BARGE TRIP There are only a couple of places left for our Barge trip on August 14th. If you would like to go, see list on notice board at the back of the church.

WHY WOULDN'T YOU? Spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration praying before the Lord. You can pray in thanksgiving for all he has done for you, the rosary for your family, friends and loved ones, pray for the conversion of others, for vocations to your parish, diocese or the world in general. You can read and meditate on your favourite passages from the Bible, pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for those nearing the end of their lives or you can simply enjoy the silence, peace and tranquillity of the Lord's presence as he lovingly listens and speaks to your heart. Your presence and commitment of this time to the Lord is a prayer in itself. See Mass schedule on front page for details of days and times of Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mark's.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend 4th August. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you

COPPERS WEIGHING YOU DOWN? You can put them in our Copper Jar at the back of the church in aid of the building fund. All donations are gratefully received.

<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	83	£339	
SUNDAY	115	£365	

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the book of Exodus [16:2-4.12-15]

I will rain down bread for you from the heavens.

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our hearts content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death! Then the Lord said to Moses, Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the days portion; I propose to test them this way to see whether they will follow my law or not. I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God." And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, What is that? not knowing what it was. That said Moses to them is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 77:3-4. 23-25. 54]

Response: the Lord gave them bread from heaven.

The things we have heard and understood,
the things our fathers have told us,
we will tell to the next generation:
the glories of the Lord and his might.

He commanded the clouds above
and opened the gates of heaven.
He rained down manna for their food,
and gave them bread from heaven.

Mere men ate the bread of angels.
He sent them abundance of food.
He brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain which his right hand had won.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians [4:17. 20-24]

Put on the new self that has been created in God's way.

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

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Alleluia, alleluia

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;

No one can come to the Father except through me.

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [6:24-35]

He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' 'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

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