

ST. MARK'S PARISH

14th September 2024 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES

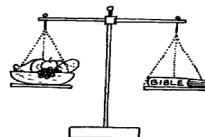
TIMES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 14th September Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 15th September	10:00am	Forbes Craig (Ann)
Monday 16th September	10:00am	Stefan Boron (Sp Int)
Tuesday 17th September	10:00am	Mr Cletus & Mrs Janet Onoh (Ann)
Thursday 19th September	10:00am	Wilma Hewat (RIP)
Friday 20th September	10:00am	Margaret Mason (RIP)
<i>Saturday 21st September Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 22nd September</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Everyone who helps out in the Parish</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		

GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

Today's scripture readings have caused much trouble in the past. Martin Luther had no time for St James and his letter, in fact referred to it as "a work of straw". The hub of the dispute is about faith and good works. Are we saved simply by faith or do we also need good works to accompany it before we can be saved? Some people's faith is almost exclusively intellectual. They can dissect complicated questions such as the divinity and humanity of Christ as well as the complex relationship between the members of the Trinity. But it doesn't make them love God. Other people learn all these teachings of faith and understand them but their response is only emotional or cultural. They go into raptures at the sight of a beautiful stained-glass window or a magnificently carved statue of Virgin and Child. Their emotions are stirred by "Abide with Me" on Cup Final Day and their sense of cultural propriety is bolstered by the flags and colours of the regiments that hang from the ceilings of some of our churches. But it doesn't make them love God. In fact, some of them even equate Christianity with their own political leanings. St James speaks out forthrightly today about the type of faith required if we are to be saved. It must be an active, dynamic faith. It's true that we're saved not by our own merits but solely by the grace of God. But if faith is the root of the tree of salvation then good works are its fruit. It makes no sense to profess a faith whose primary tenet is love of God and neighbour without showing any evidence that we care at all for our neighbour. Having an active faith shows that we do indeed love God. It shows that our faith is not all talk but is also walk; we get up and do something about it. It's a very delicate balance between faith and good works. But, of course, before you can have a balance you need to have two things to weigh.



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.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: 100 club are now collecting fees for the coming year 2024/25. Draw Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join. If you are not already subscribing - please consider joining (£20 per annum) you could win one of the three monthly prizes of £30, £10 or £10. The 100 club is our main fundraiser, all proceeds are donated evenly between SCIAF & Mary's Meals. New member forms are available at the back of Church or you can speak to any of the committee members - Jacquie George, Alma McDonald, Alexander Robbin, Elisa & Colin Armit, Helen McFadden, Ann Tobin & Filomena Tuivanualevu. Thank you.

GIFT AID: if anyone would like to participate in this very beneficial and free source of additional revenue for St. Mark's or would like more information on how easy the Gift Aid Scheme really is, please speak to Fr. Seán, Fr. Nick, Catherine Burns or Paul Drury. Thank you for your generosity, it is very much appreciated and helps us to maintain the much needed work of our parish.

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.

SPICK AND SPAN: Come and have fun with mops and brushes as we continue in our mission to keep our beautiful church clean and tidy for all the faithful who practice their faith here at St. Mark's. All help is greatly appreciated by everyone - both in heaven and on earth. Tuesday 17/9/2024 after the 10am morning Mass. Cleaning is typically finished well before noon with Tea, biscuits and a chat afterwards!

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>	<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>£309</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>£384</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [50:5-9]

I offered my back to those who struck me.

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed. My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 114:1-6. 8-9]

Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him.

They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord my God, deliver me!

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me.

He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St James [2:14-18]

If good works do not go with faith, it is quite dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

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 Mark [8:27-35]

You are the Christ. The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ'. And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

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