

ST. MARK'S PARISH

22nd September 2024 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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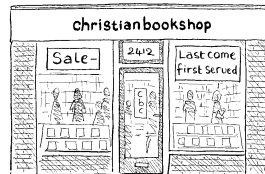
Website: stmarksrccchurch-edinburgh.org.uk

MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 21 st September Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 22 nd September	10:00am	Everyone who helps out in the Parish
Monday 23 rd September	10:00am	Ann Allan (RIP)
Tuesday 24 th September	10:00am	Ethan Hunter (RIP)
Thursday 26 th September	10:00am	Patsy & Frank McKenna (Ann)
Friday 27 th September	10:00am	Catherine McInnes (Sp Int)
Saturday 28 th September Vigil	5:00pm	Luis Alfonso Torres Llano (2 nd Ann)
Sunday 29 th September	10:00am	Harry Mclaughlin (9 th Ann)
<p>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.</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm</p>		

THE MADNESS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

Billy, aged four, and his brother Tommy, aged six, were arguing about who was going to get the first pancake that their grandmother was making at the stove. She took the opportunity to teach them a lesson, telling them that Jesus would let his brother have the first pancake. Tommy turned to Billy and said, "Ok, Billy. Go on then, you be Jesus." Self-preservation seems to lead to selfishness. In the Garden of Eden we can see how Adam and Eve were convinced that by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree it would make them just as good as God. No longer would they be in second place. Yet Jesus tells us that being first in the kingdom of heaven means being last on this earth. It's the paradox at the heart of Christianity that says to get the most out of life you must give up your life, to rule people you must be their servant, and to be first you must make yourself last. There's no doubt that such an attitude goes against the grain. We seem to be programmed to want to be at the front of the queue. Adverts in magazines and on television pamper to the fact that we "deserve" this or that, that we should adopt a me-first approach to getting what we want in our no-win no-fee society. Knowing your rights and getting everything you're entitled to has become the norm. Nothing could point more clearly to the fact that Christianity is not a socially comfortable religious position to adopt. To follow Jesus means to stand out as a sign of contradiction to the views that our society takes as normal and normative. That's why Christianity is not merely a question of "being nice". It's a choice to forego many of the values and attitudes that are prized by most of our fellow citizens. It's an option to set aside a self-serving approach to what we can get out of life, and instead to live life in a way that puts others first. Is this madness? Billy and Tommy clearly think so. Most people would think so. But Christians wouldn't.



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.

THANK YOU to those who helped out with the restoration work on the front facade of the church over the past few weeks, pre-painting the wood, preparing tea and sandwich breaks, setting up and breaking down scaffold; moral support and encouragement and cleaning up. Your generosity, help and presence is very much appreciated and enjoyed by both Fr. Nick and Fr. Seán.

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	49	£200	
SUNDAY	135	£420	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the book of Wisdom [2:12. 17-20]

Let us condemn him to a shameful death.

The godless say to themselves, 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.

Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after - we have his word for it.'

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 53:3-6.8]

Response: The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth.

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God.

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St James [3:16-4:3]

Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

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Alleluia, alleluia

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
Anyone who follows me will have the light of life.**

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [9:30-37]

The Son of Man will be delivered. If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself Servant of all.

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again'. But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all'. He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me'.

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