

ST. MARK'S PARISH

1st September 2024 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 31st August	Vigil	5:00pm	Graham Nicol (Ann)
Sunday 1st September		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 2nd September		10:00am	Bridget McCole (Ann)
Tuesday 3rd September		10:00am	Nellie & John Wright (RIP)
Thursday 5th September		10:00am	Anne McAuslan (RIP)
Friday 6th September		10:00am	Henry Boguslaw (RIP)
<i>Saturday 7th September Vigil</i>		<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>friend getting married (Sp Int)</i>
<i>Sunday 8th September</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>People of 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.			
EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

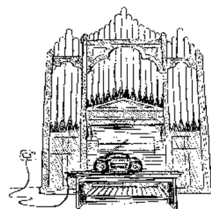
WORTHLESS WORSHIP

This week's liturgy brings us back to the gospel of Mark after a six week furlough of listening to John's sixth chapter – the Bread of Life Discourse. This weekend we hear Jesus confronting and challenging the Pharisees and Scribes over the purification rites set out by the Law.

Traditions and customs can be positive and bring meaning and significance to our lives. They can also be negative, especially if they become detached from the very values they were meant to support and protect.

Jesus makes it clear that the keeping of certain external observances does not necessarily make a person holy before God and others. He is challenging his listeners to recognise the internal intentions of a person. These internal dispositions are what allows a person to be holy before God and others.

Jesus lists the evil intentions that can come from the heart of a person. This list can provide us with a good indication regarding the level of our personal intentions. Similarly, it would be a valuable exercise for us to make up a list of the positive intentions that can emanate from a pure and sincere heart. James, in our second reading today, gives us an indication of what can emerge from such a person: one who not only listens to God's word but is also willing to be a doer of that word, especially in tending to the needs of those less fortunate in our society. In his Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul compares the works of the flesh with those of the Spirit. The actions mentioned in these two lists can be a profitable examination for us and allow us to reach holiness not simply by our external observances of customs, laws and traditions, but from what emanates from a sincere, pure and Gospel oriented heart.



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.

PRAYERS are asked for those parishes in our Archdiocese who are preparing for a change of priests, may they all work together united in their love for God.

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 to SCIAF, Mary's Meals and St. Mark's Building Fund. 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.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend 31st Aug/1st Sept. 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	78	£758	
SUNDAY	137	£448	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy [4:1-2. 6-8]

Add nothing to what I command you, keep the commandments of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation". And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'"

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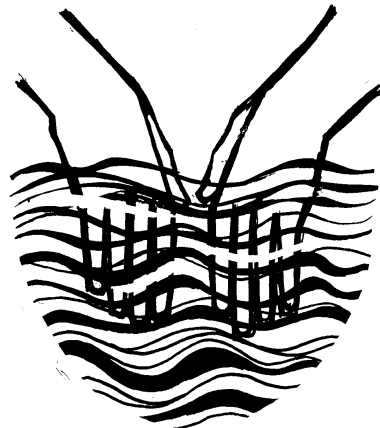
Responsorial Psalm [Ps 14:2-5.]

Response: The just will live in the presence of the Lord

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart.

He who does no wrong to his brother
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St James [1:17-18.

21-22. 27] *You must do what the word tells you.*

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

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Alleluia, alleluia

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life:

You have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark [7:1-8. 14-15.

21-23] *you put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.*

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

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