

ST. MARK'S PARISH

3rd November 2024 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 2nd November	Vigil	5:00pm	
Sunday 3rd November		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 4th November		10:00am	John & Ellen Frost (Ann)
Tuesday 5th November		10:00am	Hugh Fitzpatrick (Ann)
Thursday 7th November		10:00am	
Friday 8th November		10:00am	Sylvia Stansbury (RIP)
<i>Saturday 9th November</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 10th November</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Paddy Boyle (Ann)</i>
<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>			

RULE OF THUMB

The Jewish law contains hundreds of regulations. Even the most assiduous Jew would find it difficult to stay on top of all the rules. Yet they could all be boiled down to one simple rule of thumb. So simple, in fact, that Jewish men carried it around with them and recited it three times a day. It was called the “Shema”, the Hebrew word meaning “listen” or “hear”. And the rule of thumb says, “Listen, Israel, there is only one God, so love him with all your heart, soul and strength.”



This is the same rule of thumb that Jesus quoted to the scribe in today's gospel and he added a second part: love your neighbour in the same way you would look after yourself. No commandment is greater than these two.

When Moses first told the people about this law, he advised them to keep it in order to flourish & prosper. God's law is not there as a burden that we have to put up with just to please God. It is intended to help us get the most out of life, to grow and develop in accordance with our human nature.

That's why we turn to God's law even in the complex areas of genetic engineering, spare part medicine, international justice, etc. Should a Siamese twin be killed so that its brother or sister might live? Should the State execute certain types of criminals only? Are we justified in applying economic sanctions when it means children will starve to death? All these are modern day issues that require us to ask whether we are dealing with others in the same way we would like to be dealt with. Although the rule of thumb is simple, its application is not always obvious. But it must always be rooted in the two basic commandments if it is to be close to the kingdom of God.

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.

CAR PARK AT REAR OF CHURCH: Starting recently the back gate of the church is now being opened for Mass on Sundays which will provide more parking spaces and ease the congestion typically experienced in the front car park. Please note that it is for the most part a grass surface so please mind your step when wet.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend 2/3 Nov. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you

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 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.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2024/2025 for children who are not attending a Catholic school and would like to enrol for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation in 2025, please contact the Parish Office via email or phone and request an application form.

NEW LECTIONARIES: Starting on Sunday 1 December, an updated Lectionary will be used in all parishes throughout Scotland. This means the readings at Mass will employ a slightly different translation of the Sacred Scriptures (the ESV-CE). For anyone who personally uses their own weekday or Sunday Missal, new ones using the new translations are available from various sites such as www.rpbooks.co.uk, www.ctsbooks.org, www.hachette.co.uk/

<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>78</i>	<i>£318</i>	
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>£351</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy [6:2-6]

Listen, Israel: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51]

Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
My rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
My shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
When I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
And shown his love for his anointed.



Second Reading: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews [7:23-28]

Because he remains for ever, Christ can never lose his priesthood.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

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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 [12:28-34]

This is the first commandment. The second is like it.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God'. And after that no one dared to question him any more.

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