

29th August 2021: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)



THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

Christ did not come to set aside God's commandments but to fulfil them. He shows us how we are to act in order to witness to the power of God's word within us. Faith without good works is dead, and we show we are God's people by our care of those in need, rather than by adhering to human rules and traditions.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.

We Welcome Fr John Mudereri

Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

Sat 28	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
18:30	Bob Gray RIP
Sun 29	✠ Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
09.30	Bridget Kelly RIP
11.00	Intention of Roberto De Vivo
Mon 30	Saints Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward >>> Summer Bank Holiday <<<
11.00	Bob Gray RIP Rosary
Tue 31	
09.30	Intention of Euphrasie Rosary
Wed 01	
09.30	Fr Louis Fitzmaurice RIP Rosary
Thu 02	
09:30	Billy O'Connor RIP Rosary
Fri 03	Saint Gregory the Great
09.30	Intention of Margaret Fisher Exposition
Sat 04	
09.30	People of the Parish
18:30	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i> Wedding Anniversary of Sylvia & George Lakey
Sun 05	✠ Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
09.30	Fred & Andrew Dean RIP
11.00	Doffou Nobert Ede RIP

LAST WEEK

Offertory Gift Aided **£194** • Not Gift Aided **£285**
2nd Collection Pew Kneelers **£195**
Mass Count Sat 18:30 (39) • Sun 09.30 (70), 11.00 (70)

THIS WEEK 2nd Collection: **Pew Kneelers**

NEXT WEEK 2nd Collection: **Columban Missionaries**

DONATING

Gift Aid Tax payers, please sign up. We receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. Visit www.olspn.church for details.

Tap to Donate Payment Machine in Church Foyer or www.olspn.church

Standing Order Please contact the parish house for details.

Cheques Payable to **RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham**

CONTACTS

Treasurer David Simpson • sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk

Secretary Steve Pearce • (9 am-12 noon, Mon to Fri)

0208 778 9460 • sydenham@rcaos.org.uk

Catholic Club Margaret Doherty • 07930 889632

Hall Enquiries Praetorium (Rita / Conor) • 01372 457651

In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe he includes this information as his audience includes Gentile Christians with no knowledge or experience of these laws. Therefore, we infer, many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians. Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. A significant question for the early Christian Church, especially communities with Jewish and Gentile converts. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples. Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters their body, but rather by sin that emerges from their words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

We will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method which will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by their words and actions, not by the food they eat. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn Jesus returns home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus' words challenge us. In our desire to show we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. We become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.

Sofa for Free

Lady moving has 3 piece suite in subtle blush pink in good condition for anyone who would like it free of charge, must collect. Please ring Christine on 07929745803 for information.

Toddler Group Toy Sale

The Toddler Group are having a toy sale outside church on 29th August after the 9.30am Masses until 1pm.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

FIRST READING – Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8

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?'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 14

R. **The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

SECOND READING – James 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27

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, unspoilt 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL - Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.