

## Sunday 29th September 2024 // 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

After listening to today's Gospel, Helps & Hindrances (Mark 9:38-43), consider this reflection.

This part of Mark's Gospel is a collection of sayings about following the Lord, and in this Gospel we are presented with a rich insight into two distinct areas of discipleship. The first little story tells us that we must accept good wherever we can find it, not only in our own group and where we expect it to be. It is the same lesson that is presented in this Sunday's first reading. The Spirit of God is at work not only in Catholics, not only in Christians, not only even in explicit believers. As the Second Vatican Council taught so strongly, the Holy Spirit is at work too in those who are seeking the Kingdom under signs and symbols. They can even be better people and better Christians than we who sometimes rely too comfortably on our membership of Christ's Church! Secondly, the gospel provides some striking and urgent sayings about 'obstacles', literally trip stones which makes people fall over. These vivid and dire warnings are about leading other believers into evil and about the trip-stones in ourselves, the disordered desires, that lead us into evil. Jesus' sayings here must be taken with the utmost seriousness – but not literally (Jesus is speaking graphically to make us listen, and is not advocating self-mutilation!) ***What are the qualities of the Kingdom that we need to become models of Christ for other peoples?***

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

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**\*\*RED BOXES CAN BE COLLECTED FROM THE CHURCH HALL\*\***

## Parish Newsletter:

**St. Mary's & St. Aidan's Churches**

**Rev. Sean Hall**

**Tel. 0191 268 4222**

**[www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)**

**[www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com](http://www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com)**

**Join us on Facebook: NE12Catholic**

*For Baptisms, First Holy Communions & Confirmations, please email [parishsecretary@mail.com](mailto:parishsecretary@mail.com)*



## Sunday 22nd September 2024

### 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

After listening to today's Gospel, The Second Prophecy of the Passion (Mark 9:30-37), consider this reflection.

Mark gives us three formal prophecies of the Passion, of which this is the second. He uses the triple number frequently to stress the importance and sureness of an event. So Peter denies Jesus three times, and Pilate three times asserts Jesus' innocence.

Jesus is shown to be fully aware of the fate that awaits him: he goes into it with his eyes open, and accepts his Father's will; he is, moreover, aware that his Father will not desert him, but will vindicate him by the Resurrection. Again the disciples fail to understand the message: while Jesus had been giving them the message of triumph only through suffering and humiliation, they had been thinking about who would be the greatest. So Jesus sets before them a child as the model.

In what way is a child a model? Like adults, children can be selfish and they can be devious and scheming from an early age. However, children are probably more aware than adults that they cannot totally control a situation and trustingly accept that they are dependent on others.

The final words that Jesus speaks in today's Gospel suggests that it is this quality of dependence that Jesus proposes: like little children we should be dependent on the will of the Father.

***Why does Jesus put forward a child as a role model for us?***

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

**NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

**NEWSLETTER:** Two week edition so please keep safe and note changes to weekday masses.

**ST AIDAN’S PLANT AND PRODUCE BRING & BUY SALE:** Sun 29th Sept after Mass. Help those in need by donating spare plants, something homegrown or something home baked or produced. Please remember cash and bags on the day and if you can help on a stall please speak to Andrew or Julia.

**RCIA & 1ST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024/25:** Courses for adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church (RCIA) & 1st Holy Communion preparations both start in October. If you are interested, please speak to Fr Hall or preferably email parishsecretary@mail.com as soon as possible.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Children who have received First Holy Communion & would like to become altar servers are invited to a training session in November. Email parishsecretary@mail.com if you would like to attend.

**LOOSE COINS:** Alas, we’re unable to accept foreign money in our collections, please do check your coins before placing in the baskets. Thank you.

**COLLECTIONS:** 15th September 2024  
St Aidan’s - Loose Plate: £238.00 / Envelopes: £67.00 / Hall Hire: £50.00  
Donation: £40.00 / Mission Sunday: £45.00  
St Mary’s - Loose Plate: £280.11 / Envelopes: £42.00 / Donations: £50.00  
Friday Coffee Morning: £84.00 (People’s Kitchen)  
For details about Gift Aid or donating via standing order, please email parishsecretary@mail.com. Thank you for your continued support.

**KNITTERS!** Several bags of wool have been donated to St Mary’s. If you can make good use of it, please help yourself from the bags in the church hall.

**UNSTOPPABLE. FAN THE FLAME OF HOPE 2025:** Saturday 15th March. Two years ago, over 700 young people from our Diocese travelled to Wembley Arena for this national Catholic youth gathering. Once again YMT is hoping to take part. COST: £45 per person (includes return rail travel, Wembley ticket and London travel card). The cost has been generously subsidised by Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. For further information contact mary.hughes@ymt.org

**MASS INTENTIONS:** w/c 22nd & 29th September 2024

Sat 21st (St. Mary’s)	5.30pm	Emmett & Tierney Families
Sun 22nd (St. Aidan’s)	9.15am	Gerard Lalor
Sun 22nd (St. Mary’s)	11.00am	People of the Parish
Mon 23rd - Thurs 26th	*** NO MASSES ***	
* Fri 27th (St. Mary’s)	10.00am	Eucharistic Service
Sat 28th (St Mary’s)	5.30pm	Marie Simpson & family
Sun 29th (St Aidan’s)	9.15am	Priest’s Intention
Sun 29th (St Mary’s)	11.00am	Ignacio & Rosalina Cardozo
Mon 30th - Wed 2nd Oct	*** NO MASSES ***	
Thurs 3rd (St Aidan’s)	10.00am	In Thanksgiving
Fri 4th (St Mary’s)	10.00am	In Thanksgiving
Sat 5th (St Mary’s)	5.30pm	Priest’s Intention
Sun 6th (St Aidan’s)	9.15am	People of the Parish
Sun 6th (St Mary’s)	11.00am	People of the Parish
* Mon 7th Oct	*** NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ***	

For Mass Intentions, please see envelopes in our churches  
**THURS 26TH SEPT:** ST MARY’S HIGH SCHOOL OPENING EVENING, 5PM-7PM  
With presentation from the Head, Miss Patterson, at 5.10pm, and 5.50pm

**SAT 28TH & SUN 29TH SEPT:** We welcome Fr Emmanuel Mbeh who will be celebrating Masses with us and speaking about the Missio Appeal.

**THURSDAY 3RD SEPT:** St Stephen’s Primary school mass at St Aidan’s, 10am

**FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER:** CAFOD FAMILY FEAST DAY  
Children from St Mary’s Primary will be celebrating mass with us at 10am

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AUTUMN 2024:** Minutes available soon.

**WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR:** All those who have died recently. Those in our parishes who are sick or who may need our thoughts and prayers. And those of our parishes whose anniversary occurs at this time.

**KEEP IN TOUCH:** Contact us parishsecretary@mail.com / 0191 268 4222  
Access weekend mass live via YouTube, search St Mary of the Rosary Newsletters & Homilies can be viewed on www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk