

“GOOD SHEPHERD” OR 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER, 12th MAY 2019

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL,
ESPECIALLY TO OUR VISITORS**

PREPARATION FOR MASS

To listen to someone, rather than just to hear them, can imply some level of acceptance of what they say. And if what they say involves asking us to do something, then listening to them means following through or obeying them.

This raises a good question when it comes to listening to Jesus, to the Word of God. In the Gospel today, he describes the result of someone listening to him as being to follow him. The Word of God is not truly listened to if we remain in our armchairs, however delighted we may be by the beauty of what Jesus says. It involves rather a following, i.e., a getting up, a stepping forward behind him, going in his direction by making Christ-centred choices.

At Mass, do I merely hear the Word, indeed do I even hear it? Or do I listen and follow? One thing is sure. At every Mass the Lord has something he wishes to say to every person present, for he wants to reach us, deep in our heart and soul. He wants to change us to become truer to ourselves and to him, sometimes imperceptibly and gently, sometimes by giving us a shake and maybe even a shock. His aim? To love us and to enlove us to love as he loves.

Opening Hymn (Largs): 466

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Acts 13:14,43-52

The Acts of the Apostles recount what the Apostles were inspired to do after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The first part of the Book focuses more, but not exclusively, on St. Peter. The rest focuses more on St. Paul. The acts in question involve preaching to both Jews and Gentiles, miracles, persecutions and the struggle the first Christians had to liberate themselves from the observances of the Jewish law. Much of it was very messy, contentious and difficult. As we know, the life of the Church has been the same ever since, but so has the continued presence and action of the Holy Spirit of the Risen Jesus within her.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the Sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. ‘We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think

yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.’

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Ps. 99: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Apocalypse 7:9,14-17

The Book of the Apocalypse or Revelation results from an “unveiling” or visions of divine mysteries said traditionally to have been given to St. John the Apostle by the Risen Christ. The Book includes the revelation of hidden things, imparted by God, and particularly a revelation of events hidden in the future. It cannot be understood without taking into account the circumstances that gave rise to it. It was written during a period of bitter persecution of the infant Church and was intended to increase the hope and determination of its members. At the same time the Book portrays the unchanging realities on which faith relies in any period of history and especially the realisation of the final victory of Jesus Christ over all evil.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said, ‘These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God’s throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.’

Gospel

John 10:27-30

Jesus said:

‘The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA
28 Greenock Road, Largs, KA30 8NE

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR
College Street, Millport, KA28 0BG

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Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee
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Mass

Largs: Saturday Vigil, 6pm; Sunday, 10am; Mon-Wed, 10am; Fri, 7pm; Sat. 10am.

Millport: Sunday, 12.15pm; **No Mass Thursday 16th May**

Confessions

Largs: Friday, after 7pm Mass; Saturday, 5.00-5.45pm.
Millport: None this week.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

One hour before weekday Mass (unless a funeral, a holiday of obligation or otherwise notified), with Rosary & Litany on the half-hour.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

COMMEMORATION	READINGS
Monday 13/5: Our Lady of Fatima	4 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white
Tuesday 14/5: St. Matthias the Apostle, Feast	Proper Readings Liturgical Colour: red
Wednesday 15/5	4 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white
Thursday 16/5	4 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white
Friday 17/5	4 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white
Saturday 18/5: Mass of Our Lady	4 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 11 th May, 6pm	Isobel McCall
Sun 12 th May, 10am	Bill Goodfellow
Sun 12 th May, 12.15pm	All Parishioners
Mon 13 th May, 10am	Catherine Mulreany
Tues 14 th May, 10am	Helen McShane
Wed 15 th May, 10am	Brian Rooney
Fri 17 th May, 7pm	Eileen Bradley
Sat 18 th May, 10am	Sr. Ann Smyth, 90 th b'day

Sick: Margaret Ryding, Jane Sewell, Margaret Gallagher, Kenneth McComish, Anne Gaffney, Maria Kelly (Millport), Liam Nagle, Alane Harvey, Fr. Gerard Hamill, Helen Cannie, Lidia Tracey, Helen McShane, Linda Reynolds.
Recently Deceased: Catherine Mulreany, Sandra Hurthwaite, Mikie Ring, Brian Rooney, Donald Macneil.

Anniversaries: Andrew McGrory, Catherine McGrory, Alex McGrory.

NOTICES

MAY DEVOTIONS: Sunday evenings in May at 6pm, Largs. We offer up the devotions for those in our parishes who have lapsed from the practice of their faith, whatever the reason. Our Lady's care and power of intercession are second only to those of Jesus himself. She draws the Spirit upon those who seek her help. If you are worried about someone in your family, come and join your intercession to that of the community gathered in prayer to the Mother of us all.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Please pray for the children of P4 at St. Mary's Primary who will receive their First Holy Communion next Sunday, 19th May, at a special Mass at 12 Noon in Largs. Let's pray also for their families, for the gift of a strong and committed practice of the faith.

ST. MARY'S PRAYER LINE: Phone 07803 748251.

BISHOP NOLAN: The Bishop will be visiting St. Mary's Primary School this Tuesday 14th May. Mass will be celebrated at 1.15pm in the school and the Bishop will also bless the premises. All are cordially invited to attend.

ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL INSPECTION: The inspection of the school takes place this coming week. Let's offer our prayers and support to all staff and pupils for a very successful outcome.

ST. MARY'S PARISH FESTIVAL - IN FAITH AND IN FUN: The Feast of St. Mary, Star of the Sea, will become our official parish feast day. The date is 27th September, a Friday this year, but the liturgical norms allow us to transfer it to the nearest Sunday, which will be the 29th September, so that as many as possible in the parish can take part. If you have ideas for the festival or are willing to help, please contact Celia Lewis or Ann McQueeney.

ST. MARGARET PILGRIMAGE: The annual St Margaret Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday 2 June 2019 in Dunfermline. There will be a procession from Pittencrieff Park leaving at 1.45pm for Mass at St Margaret's memorial chapel at 3.00pm. Please see the poster at the back of the church for further information.

PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL: A Diocesan Pilgrimage to Turkey will take place in April/May 2020. The estimated cost of the Pilgrimage will be £1,000, based on two people sharing a room. Flights will be direct from Glasgow, accommodation will be on a half-board basis in 4* hotels, and a full spiritual programme will be provided. If you would like to 'express and interest' in taking part in this pilgrimage please contact Fr. David Borland by email (david.borland@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or call him on 01292 263488. Please do so by August 1st 2019 when a decision will be made as to whether the Pilgrimage will proceed.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK: 17th June for 4 nights. £649 pp sharing. Contact Patricia on 01268 762278 for more.

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FOR ALL CURRENT AND RETIRED PRIMARY HEAD-TEACHERS IN THE DIOCESE: You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Bishop’s Mass, Lunch and Mini Conference on Tuesday 28 May 2019. Bishop Nolan will celebrate Mass at 12.15 in St. Joseph’s Church, Hill Street, Kilmarnock, followed by lunch and speakers in the Church Hall. Please RSVP to the Diocesan Office: kate@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

TERRORIST ATTACKS IN SRI LANKA: At all Masses this weekend, there will be a second collection in response to the special appeal from “Missio, Scotland.” In consultation with the Parish Finance Council, I have also decided to assign 50% of the Largs Easter Sunday collection, i.e. £536.94, to this very worthy cause.

CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE: The Service will be held in Costa Coffee at 6.30pm on Sunday 19th May. All welcome.

RELIGIOUS STALL: A very good selection of First holy Communion cards, bibles, rosaries and various gifts are available.

BULLETIN NOTICES: Please submit any notices for the bulletin by 12 Noon on Thursday.

RECENT INCOME

	LARGS	MILLPORT
Main collection	£676.07 (5/5)	£184.55 (28/4) £193.45 (5/5)
Building Fund	---	£106.51 (5/5)
Other	£50.76 (5/5)	---
Xavierian Appeal	£995.39 (28/4)	£234.74 (28/4)

PARISH DIARY DATES

Friday, 17 th May, Largs, 11am, Parish House	Parish Mission Sub-Committee
Sunday 19 th May, Largs, 12 Noon	First Communions
Thursday 23 rd May, Millport, 10.30am	Parish Pastoral Council
Thursday 30 th May, Ascension Thursday	Holiday of Obligation
Thursday 30 th May, Largs, 7.30pm, in Hall	In-Service for Readers
Sunday 9 th June, Millport, during 12.15pm Mass	Recommissioning of Eucharistic Ministers
Thursday 13 th June, Largs, 7.30pm, in Hall	Parish Liturgy Council
Friday 14 th June, Largs, 2pm	Wedding of Louise Rodgers and William Nicol
Friday 21 st June, Parish House, 11am	Inter-Parochial Safeguarding Committee
Friday 21 st June, St. Mary’s Primary School (afternoon)	Primary 7 Graduation
Sunday 30 th June, Millport, 12.15pm	Parish Feast Day, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Our Lady of Fatima (13th May) and Terrorism

The recent terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, for all their brutality and absurdity, pale into insignificance when we consider the horrors we humans have inflicted on each other in the course of history. Not even the fact that they were supposedly perpetrated in the name of God is new. Even if humanity should eventually deceive itself into thinking it could “rid itself” of any faith in any God, terrorism and barbarity are unlikely to cease.

During the First World War, in 1917, Our Lady appeared at Fatima to three young shepherds and brought them a message of penance, prayer and conversion. It was the year of the Russian revolution and Our Lady foretold some rather disturbing things about that, about the Second World War and about other wars that would be waged in the future. Fundamentally, though, her message was one of the ultimate triumph of peace, a God-given peace. Our Lady has a few titles associated with various apparitions and traditions, all of which relate to peace: Our Lady of Peace, Mother of Peace, Our Lady Queen of Peace.

These titles are also associated with a title which She herself used at Fatima: the Immaculate Heart. This name for her is rooted in the Immaculate Conception but it implies that she worked hard and faithfully to maintain the freedom from sin which she was given from conception. By grace and by her own heroic freedom, she kept her heart free from sin.

There is no question that the terror of war and of other random or purposeful violence is rooted in the sinful heart of man and woman. Many terrorists are, of course, forced into it; many will presumably have serious personal problems that underlie their resorting to terror. But there are the ideologues and the strategists, aided and abetted by the international arms trade, who know precisely what they are doing. Sin speaks deeply to their hearts.

Considering all this, we could conclude that the attempt to defeat terrorism is, in the end, futile. Here, I believe, our secret weapon is the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Peace. She has a spiritual power, given her of course by the Prince of Peace, but to which he wants us to have recourse in times such as this. *She can speak to the hearts of the terrorists.* To invoke and pray to the Immaculate Heart is no form of magic. It does not exempt us from working politically, socially, educationally and in every other way to bring an end to the scourge of terrorism. But She can champion all those efforts of ours and give them substance and élan. We must work as though everything depended on us and pray knowing that everything depends on Her, by the grace of her Son. She promised at Fatima that her Immaculate Heart would triumph. Let that give us courage and determination to work and to pray untiringly for the precious gift of peace under her patronage, guidance and protection.

With every blessing,
Mgr. Peter Magee, PP

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The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
*At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all
bow.*
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty; from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Hymn for Procession of Gifts (Largs): 794

In marriage, a man and a woman make the definitive gift of themselves to each other. Giving and being a gift are inscribed in our human nature. Of course, a gift can only be given freely. No-one can be forced to give. If they were forced, what they would give has really been stolen. But when it is genuinely free, a gift is the expression of love, especially when that gift is your very self.

At Mass, as we know, the Lord gives himself to every one of us. In another sense, he has already given himself to every one of us by giving us the gift of our very selves. Who I am is his gift. This implies that I am most myself, I become most fully who I am in giving myself back to the Lord. The bread and wine brought to the altar symbolize us. The bread and wine received from the altar are the Lord. He has taken the symbol of who we are and transformed it into the reality of who he is.

Eucharistic Prayer IV

Christ living and always interceding for us

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,
but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously,
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

He never ceases to offer himself for us
but defends us and ever pleads our cause before you:
he is the sacrificial Victim who dies no more,
the Lamb, once slain, who lives for ever.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory,
as they acclaim: **Holy, holy ...**

Communion Antiphon

**The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his
life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock,
alleluia.**

Holy communion is the “living bread come down from heaven”, in the words of Jesus. By this bread Jesus wants to “give life to the world.” The Eucharist is therefore the life of heaven on earth, not when it is closed up in the church or tabernacle, but when it injects life, eternal life, into the world via those who receive it in faith and love.

For a Christian who believes, the Eucharist is the driving force of his or her commitment to building a better society. Through the Church working in the world, the Lord desires to bring earth to heaven. That is why he came down from heaven to earth. Every Catholic is called to imbue his or her day and work with the life, love, truth and power contained in the Eucharist. Thus the Eucharist transforms the world.

Hymn for Communion (Largs): 620

MARIAN ANTIPHON

**We will sing it in Latin from the hymn book,
Number 368 (10am Mass only).** *English translation:*

**Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!**

Recessional Hymn (Largs & Millport):

**Bring flowers of the rarest
bring blossoms the fairest,
from garden and woodland and hillside and dale;
our full hearts are swelling,
our glad voices telling
the praise of the loveliest flower of the vale!**

**O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today!
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.
O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.**

**Their lady they name thee,
Their mistress proclaim thee,
Ah, grant that thy children on earth be as true
as long as the bowers
are radiant with flowers,
as long as the azure shall keep its bright hue.**

A rabbi, a priest and a minister walk into a bar. The bartender looks up and says, “What is this, a joke?”