

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, 19th MAY 2019

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

PREPARATION FOR MASS

In the psychology of relationships, it is vital to observe boundaries. The importance of “respecting another’s space” is how we sometimes say the same thing. Over-familiarity, invading people’s space, “being in someone’s face” are all things which we instinctively reject as inappropriate for decent and respectful behaviour. Even when a relationship is intimate, as in marriage, the parties need to avoid suffocating one another as this can lead to the loss of the sense of dignity on one another’s part. True intimacy is served by respect for the other’s space. The other person is, in this sense, sacred in any relationship. The human person can never be reduced to being a function of someone else or, as would be even worse, of something else such as the state. We always remain in the image and likeness of God.

This sacredness applies all the more in our relationship with God. It is not something which creates distance, for who could be closer to us than the Lord? It is a question of a sincere and radical recognition of the holiness and majesty of God, sometimes called his “transcendence.” We need to observe God’s sacred space in one another and in the “things” of God, including in his dwelling place, be it in the Church as the community of believers or in the church as the consecrated space in which the worship of God takes place. Let each of us try at Mass today to recover the sense of awe and wonder before the Lord in his temple so that our humble humanity may be ennobled by God’s holy and loving presence and so that our intimacy with God may be all the more genuine.

Opening Hymn (Largis): 803

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Acts 14:21-27

From the time of Pope Paul VI and right up to Pope Francis, our Popes have undertaken a lot of travelling across the globe. The Pope is not just the Bishop of Rome, after all, but the Pastor of the universal Church. And while there is an impressive network of communications within the Church that informs the Vatican of all that is going on, it is only natural and right that people want to experience the presence and hear the message of the Pope in their own territory. It brings great encouragement and has, historically, been a catalyst for improving the life of the Church in many respects. The forerunners to the travelling Popes are SS. Paul and Barnabas, as this reading demonstrates.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. ‘We all have to experience many hardships’ they said ‘before we enter the kingdom of God.’ In each of these churches they appointed

elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

Ps. 144: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

Apocalypse 21:1-5

Marxism promotes a utopia on earth as the result of human effort alone. The historical examples of Marxist regimes have, however, shown that such a utopia remains elusive. The Christian vision is that, certainly, we must all work hard to improve the quality of human life in all its dimensions. Yet, in the end, the new heavens and the new earth are not the fruit of the work of our hands but the gift of God. As this reading portrays them, they “come down from God out of heaven.” On the individual level, the Christian lives and loves, gives and suffers, as generously as he or she can to achieve full personal development and to aid that of others. But it is not we who place the crown of everlasting life on our own heads: it is God alone who raises us to eternity.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, ‘You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.’

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: ‘Now I am making the whole of creation new.’

Gospel

John 13:31-33.34-35

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

‘Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

‘My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.’

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

Tel: 01475 672324. Website: rclargsandmillport.com

Parish Email: largs@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

SC010576

Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee

PP's email: peter.magee@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

Mass

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

Millport: Sunday, 12.15pm; Thursday, 10am

Confessions

Largs: Friday, after 7pm Mass; Saturday, 5.00-5.45pm.

Millport: After 10am Mass, Thursday.

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 20/5	5 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white
Tuesday 21/5	5 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white
Wednesday 22/5: Mass of Our Lady	5 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white
Thursday 23/5	5 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white
Friday 24/5	5 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white
Saturday 25/5: Mass of Our Lady	5 th Week of Eastertide Liturgical Colour: white

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 18 th May, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 19 th May, 10am	Ian Alexander
Sun 19 th May, 12 Noon	Primary 4 Children
Sun 19 th May, 12.15pm	Intention of Celebrant
Mon 20 th May, 10am	Anna Hosch
Tues 21 st May, 10am	Avril Cullis
Wed 22 nd May, 10am	Codona Family
Thurs 23 rd May, 10am	Phelim Sweeney
Fri 24 th May, 7pm	Richard Cunningham
Sat 25 th May, 10am	Bridie Lafferty
Sat 25 th May, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 26 th May, 10am	Bill Goodfellow
Sun 26 th May, 12.15pm	Canon Felix McCarney

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, Peter Leitch, Marie McDermott. **Recently Deceased:** Kevin Cleary, Eileen Carroll, Madeleine Ribeiro, Henry Murphy Graham, Helen Purdie, John McGowan.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Please pray for the children of P4 at St. Mary's Primary who will receive their First Holy Communion this 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.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER – UPDATE (Largs): There were 24 parishioners who put their names forward to come together to explore our faith. The format has been agreed and the plan is for 3 groups of 8 to meet for an hour over a 4-week period. Louise Devine, Roger Townley or Gordon McMillan will be getting in touch with their respective groups over the next 2 weeks to agree a suitable time to meet. It's not too late if anyone would like to join the groups. Please contact Louise on 672572 or Gordon on 07977 403462.

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

ST. MARY'S PARISH FESTIVAL - IN FAITH AND IN FUN: 22-29 September. If you have ideas for the festival or are willing to help, please contact Celia Lewis or Ann McQueeney.

OASIS DAY FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Saturday, June 22nd from 12 Noon to 3.45pm at St. Peter's in Ardrossan. The day begins with refreshments. Largs Eucharistic Ministers should submit their name to May Fulton and Millport EM's to Elizabeth Murphy by June 15th.

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

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

RELIGIOUS STALL (Largs): A very good selection of First Holy Communion cards, bibles, rosaries etc. are available.

INVERCLYDE VOICES CONCERT: Tuesday 4th June in St Columba's Parish Church at 7.30pm, tickets are on sale at the Fruit shop Tron place and Reds Frazer Street, they will also be available at the door on the night.

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FORTHCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: 1-2 June, Social Communications. 8-9 June, Pro-Life.

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

INCOME, 11-12 MAY

	LARGS	MILLPORT
Main collection	£685.17	£136.80
Other	£66.20	---
Sri Lanka	£1,271.84	£124.65
Bank income, April	£2,249	---

PARISH DIARY DATES

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
Thursday 6 th June, Largs, 7.30pm, in Hall	Parish Finance Council
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

First Holy Communion: a chance to reflect

Year by year, parishes usually have the joy of seeing a group of children make their first Holy Communion. The joy of the children is palpable; the pride of their parents likewise. While for some, it is merely one more social occasion, for others it is a real sign of the real Presence of the Jesus who again shows his preferential love for children.

The children of St. Mary's Primary have prepared carefully, lengthily and lovingly for their first encounter with the Lord in this most wonderful of all sacraments. They need nothing of the complex theology of the Eucharist, yet their simple and direct faith brings them directly to the core of it more than any theology can.

They are aware that their first Holy Communion means a new depth in their relationship with Jesus. He is not only with them, but in them; not just in their souls, but in their bodies. In the quiet intimacy of their innocent hearts, Jesus himself exudes his own divine joy into them, delighting in being with them, delighting in them.

The children also sense that their first Holy Communion is a form of graduation. They have been baptized. They have been confirmed. This past week they received the sacrament of Reconciliation in the school. And now, wonder of wonders, they at last receive Holy Communion,

nothing and no-one less than the Lord Himself! So now their Christian initiation is complete. Now they are full members of the Church. Now, in their own childlike way, they know they have a new responsibility. With Jesus in them in this most special of ways, they know they must live their day in his Presence. Now, they know that no day is greater or better than Sunday, the Lord's day, the day on which He awaits their return to his altar so that He can give Himself to them again and again and again.

Would that each of us had once again that deep and sweet and uncomplicated faith and love for Holy Communion! That innocence of heart and openness of desire to surrender myself to Jesus! That sense of wonder and awe in his Real Presence and that impressionable heart which accepts His gift as the fruit of his loving and dying and rising for me! That immediate and purposeful resolve to live my day and my week in constant awareness of his Presence! That loving longing for Sunday, to worship Him and receive Him from the altar of his love!

Alas, in many quarters these deep and faith-filled dispositions for approaching the Sacrament of His Death and Resurrection have dwindled and been replaced with attitudes which are jaded, routine, cool, apathetic, half-hearted and even presumptuous. Many who receive Communion no longer even believe in it. We need to stir once more by the grace of the Spirit our knowledge and appreciation of this Sacrament of Sacraments. We must hope that the children's catechism will not remain stuck at primary school level. We dare to hope that parish, school and especially parents educate their children further in the doctrine of the Church on the Eucharist, in learning to pray to and adore the Blessed Sacrament, in talking about how the Real Presence can make them grow and act before God in every aspect of their lives.

The recurrence of First Holy Communion is a challenge to us all to renew our faith, to extend our knowledge, to deepen our devotion, to seek out how to make the Eucharist inform and transform our daily lives, our relationships, our attitudes. In the early Church, people were martyred because they went to Sunday Mass, explaining to their executioners, "we cannot live without the Mass, therefore it is better that we die." Many today no longer consider Mass as a Sunday obligation, or the knowing and deliberate missing of Mass as serious sin. And yet, the obligation remains, as does the sin. The third commandment has been abrogated by no-one.

None of us is perfect, but we are called to strive towards perfection. None of us can judge, but we are called to ensure that our lives do not fall under the judgment of Christ. All of us are invited to the banquet, but we must be wearing the wedding garment. To us all, Christ calls us to conversion of life and thus to his Kingdom. Today, may he give us back the heart of children and restore deep within us a faithful love of the Eucharist, a faithful commitment to Sunday and a humble obedience to his commands.

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): 920

"Fresh heart." Paul & Barnabas put this into the disciples they met on their travels. It is great to meet someone who instils into you a new burst of enthusiasm, whose words and manner and even looks inspire encouragement. This is true, of course, in any aspect of life, but it is especially true in the spiritual life and in trying to live as a Catholic in today's world.

Even in apostolic times, many were tempted to give up and give in to the prevailing attitudes and mores of the time. It is always easier to go with the flow. Nor does it mean that the times in which we live don't have something to tell us. Of course, they do. But we also have something to tell them. We have the Gospel of Christ, the deposit of faith guarded and explained by the successors of Paul & Barnabas. We must engage with today with open minds, indeed, but not with empty heads. Esau sold his birth right for a plate of soup. Let us not sell our faith just to please the opinions and preferences of men.

Eucharistic Prayer II

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.

For, with the old order destroyed,
a universe cast down is renewed,
and integrity of life is restored to us in Christ.

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

**I am the true vine and you are the branches, says
the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him,
bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.**

A little girl in China loved her first communion class. She believed very deeply in the Real Presence. But the communists came to her town and told everyone that the Real Presence was a fairy tale. They brought the little girl and her classmates to the church. They threw the hosts on the ground and stamped on them. The little girl was horrified.

The priest had been imprisoned in the church coal-bunker and could see into the church. That night, he heard the door of the church open and saw the little girl come in quietly, not to disturb the soldiers. She approached a consecrated host and put her head down near it until she could pick it up with her tongue. Then she stayed a long time in prayer and went home. This happened until nearly all the hosts had been consumed. The last night, a soldier caught her and shot her. But the priest was able to see that she managed to shuffle herself along, wounded, until she ate the last host. She tried to kneel up to pray, but fell dead at the soldier's feet.

The true story of a child martyr for the Real Presence.

Hymn for Communion (Largs): 627

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): 351

One Easter a priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them. 'Come with me,' said St. Peter to the taxi driver. The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool.

Next, St. Peter led the priest to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set. 'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,' said the priest. 'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached God's word.' 'Yes, that's true.' St Peter rejoined, 'But during your Easter sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'