

MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY, 16th JUNE 2019

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

PREPARATION FOR MASS

To all fathers in the parish, HAPPY FATHERS' DAY! One of the great things for Christians is that, over and above our earthly fathers and grandfathers, God gives us many other father figures. In the Bible, they are called the "Patriarchs." They include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Later there comes David and Solomon. In the New Testament, there are the Twelve Apostles, especially Peter and Paul. Early Christianity also provides us with "the Fathers", figures like Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp, Ambrose and Augustine. In our own land, there were Ninian, Columba and Kentigern.

In fact, there are hosts of holy and courageous fathers of our faith who can be role models for any father or for any son or daughter in search of a father. At the start, some time needs to be spent in searching and researching these figures, reading their stories, talking to them in prayer, asking their help and inspiration. At different times, a father, son or daughter may need the help of a different facet of fatherhood in their lives. All these holy men are given to us as gifts by God. The fact that they all had a profound relationship with God makes of their lives a sure point of reference and support for our own. Why not search out and befriend one or more of these fathers? They await us.

Opening Hymn (Largs): 708

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Proverbs 8:22-31

This reading talks of Wisdom as if it were a Person. In the Christian tradition Wisdom has often been identified with the Person of the Son of God and/or of the Holy Spirit. All creation bears the hallmark of the Trinity. It is not a "chaotic" creation but a "wise" one, grounded in the order and harmony of the Trinity.

The Wisdom of God cries aloud:
The Lord created me when his purpose first unfolded,
before the oldest of his works.
From everlasting I was firmly set,
from the beginning, before earth came into being.
The deep was not, when I was born,
there were no springs to gush with water.
Before the mountains were settled,
before the hills, I came to birth;
before he made the earth, the countryside,
or the first grains of the world's dust.
When he fixed the heavens firm, I was there,
when he drew a ring on the surface of the deep,
when he thickened the clouds above,

when he fixed fast the springs of the deep,
when he assigned the sea its boundaries
– and the waters will not invade the shore –
when he laid down the foundations of the earth,
I was by his side, a master craftsman,
delighting him day after day,
ever at play in his presence,
at play everywhere in his world,
delighting to be with the sons of men.

**Ps. 8: How great is your name, O Lord our God,
through all the earth.**

Romans 5:1-5

Faith is not just an act of the mind saying "I believe that God is Three-in-One." Faith is an act of the whole person entrusting him or herself completely to the Trinity who has first already "poured itself out" completely into our hearts through Christ and the Holy Spirit. Faith makes us "capable of God", able to receive and hold the Eternal One in our very being. Faith begins our transformation into the life of God. What it begins on earth finds its fulfilment in the Beatific Vision. This gives us a deep and certain hope that despite our sufferings and death, and even because of them, we will share in the life of God. When we awaken to the reality of faith, we have a treasure which frees us from over-attachment to anything or anyone in this life, including ourselves. The one who truly believes "knows in his guts" that God alone suffices.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. But that is not all we can boast about; we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

Gospel

John 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples:
'I still have many things to say to you
but they would be too much for you now.
But when the Spirit of truth comes
he will lead you to the complete truth,
since he will not be speaking as from himself
but will say only what he has learnt;
and he will tell you of the things to come.
He will glorify me,
since all he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.
Everything the Father has is mine;
that is why I said:
*All he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.'*

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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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, after 10am Mass and from 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 17/6	11 th Week, Ordinary Time* Liturgical Colour: green
Tuesday 18/6	11 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical Colour: green
Wednesday 19/6	11 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical Colour: green
Thursday 20/6	11 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical Colour: green
Friday 21/6: St. Aloysius Gonzaga	Proper Readings Liturgical Colour: white
Saturday 22/6: SS. John Fisher & Thomas More, Martyrs (d. 1535)	11 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: red

*Readings are from Year I.

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 15 th June, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 16 th June, 10am	All Fathers in the Parish
Sun 16 th June, 12.15pm	Isa Duncan
Mon 17 th June, 10am	Isabel McHugh
Tues 18 th June, 10am	Sarah McDougall
Wed 19 th June, 10am	Bruce McDougall
Thurs 20 th June, 10am	Jessie Clements
Fri 21 st June, 7pm	Special Intention
Sat 22 nd June, 10am	Suzanne White
Sat 22 nd June, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 23 rd June, 10am	Hugh Maxwell
Sun 23 rd June, 12.15pm	Special Intention

Sick: Margaret Ryding, Jane Sewell, Margaret Gallagher, Kenneth McComish, Anne Gaffney, Maria Kelly (Millport),

Liam Nagle, Alane Harvey, Fr. Gerard Hamill, Lidia Tracey, Helen McShane, Peter Leitch, Marie McDermott, Colette McCafferty, Alex Gregg, Sarah McDougall, Bruce McDougall, Jessie Clements. **Recently Deceased:** Suzanne White. **Anniversary:** Margaret Gallagher.

NOTICES

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLESSING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE (Largs): For your interest and information, June 21st, the first day of summer, is the 58th anniversary of the blessing of the foundation stone of St. Mary's by Bishop Joseph McGee in 1961.

SACRED HEART NOVENA: For those who wish, a limited number of Novena pamphlets has been made available at the back of the church. The Novena begins on Thursday 20th June and ends on Friday 28th June, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER (Largs): The fourth meeting takes place this coming Tuesday, June 18th at 7.30pm in the church hall.

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 names to May Fulton and Millport EM's to Elizabeth Murphy by June 15th.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES, 1-8 JULY: Prayer petitions for Lourdes should be placed in a sealed envelope without money and marked "Petition." If you want a votive candle to be lit at the Grotto, place money in an envelope and mark it "Candles." All envelopes should be left in the stall in the church porch in Largs by Sunday 30th June.

MALAWI EXCHANGE: "We are very excited to be going on our exchange visit to Malawi next week. We would like to thank the Parish for their generous donation to St John's Parish, Mzambazi, the Pro-Life group for their lovely baby clothes, St Mary's school for the pens, pencils and stationary and everyone for their good wishes. Thank you, Joanna Louis, Eleanor Jones, Danny Casey and all the Malawi group."

"PATSY MAXWELL AND FAMILY would like to thank everyone who attended Hugh Maxwell's funeral on Thursday 11th June and for everyone's kind messages and support. We are very touched by everyone's generosity in the retiral collection as £770 has been donated for Ayrshire Hospice."

FR. GERRY HAMILL wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and wishes during his recent spell of ill health. Fr. Hamill is much better but continues to ask our prayers.

SVDP PHONE NUMBER: Largs SVDP have a new phone number which has been active since 13th June: 07950 586214. Please direct all enquiries and requests directly to this number.

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

RECENT INCOME

	LARGS	MILLPORT
Main collection	£594.85 (9/6)	£346.39 (26/5) £176.77 (2/6) £174.30 (9/6)
Communications	---	£52.97 (2/6)
Building Fund	---	£132.22 (26/5)
Pro-Life	£554.38 (9/6)	£116.23 (9/6)
Bank FP/SO (May)	£2,149.00	---

PARISH DIARY DATES

Thursday 20 th June, Millport, 10.30am	Parish Pastoral Council
Friday 21 st June, St. Mary's Primary School (afternoon)	Primary 7 Graduation
Friday 28 th June, Largs, Parish House, 11am	Parish Mission Sub-Committee
Sunday 30 th June, Millport, 12.15pm	Parish Feast Day, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

God Talk

In the Christian life, we can sometimes forget that knowing and loving God is the most important thing.

A vision of the Christian life which is mainly concerned with commandments and rules can make us focus too much on what *I* am doing. And at times, it's not even what I am doing *for God*, but just what I am doing. The danger with this is that we get caught up in chasing a perfection which we think we can engineer by our own efforts. We can fall into the trap of making God's law more important than God himself. This does not mean that his law is unimportant. It just means we should obey him because we love him, not so as to be perfect in our own eyes.

Another form of ignoring God is by reducing Christianity to a purely "horizontal" concern. We are all for humanitarian aid and projects; we are zealous promoters and defenders of human rights. Yes, but we often lose sight of the fact that our efforts *across* the way only find their true source and purpose in our efforts *above* the way. It is our vertical rapport with God which empowers and guides our outreach and bears fruit worthy of God.

A Benedictine I once knew in Rome would often speak of the "tyranny of the intellect." What he meant was that when too much emphasis is placed on being intelligent, and knowing things, we can end up knowing a great deal *about* the Church, her history and her mystery, and even *about* God, yet fail actually to *know and love* God and the Church, created and born of that love.

A more recent twist on this is found in people adopting a (sometimes exclusively) political or ideological mindset when studying or observing the affairs of Church or God. How frequently we hear today phrases like "right wing" or "left wing", "conservative" or "progressive" when it comes

to Church matters. When I was in the United States, people, even at church, were more interested in whether you were "democrat" or "republican" than in whether you were a believer or non-believer, faithful or unfaithful. To look at God and his Church through a political eyeglass is like listening to music with earplugs in.

It is not that the moral life, the humanitarian concern, the intellectual and academic are not important. They are, of course, very important. But their true importance, and their true effectiveness, depends on our individual and communal relationship with God. Any attempt to interpret the reality of the Church and her teaching and mission, any attempt to understand her engagement with the world will fail without accepting that her origin is in God, her structure is established by God, her mission is God-given and its aim is to bring people to know and love God and to share in his life. In a word, only the eyes of faith can see God and Church aright.

So, to maintain a healthy Christian life, it's of paramount importance to establish, sustain and nourish our personal relationship with God: with God the Father, my Father, the Origin and Goal of my existence, the Provider and Foundation of my security; with God the Son, my Saviour and Redeemer, my Brother and my Friend, my Lover and my Judge; and with God the Holy Spirit, my Life and my Light, my Advocate and Consoler. Each of the three divine Persons invites each of us to a rich and deep relationship of familiarity and adoration. He begs our love.

This relationship is not some imposition on my freedom or time. It is, in fact, the foundation and guarantee of my true freedom and eternity. There is nothing more human than to engage with the divine. If we let ourselves be distracted or absorbed by less than God, we will fail to live authentic human lives by God's measure. Whereas, if God is our main concern, pursuit, desire and motivation, all the other things and people in our lives will benefit greatly. God takes nothing away from us: he gives us everything. He does not remove our human loves: he gives them depth, purity, strength and fidelity. He does not suffocate our true human potential: he engages it until it flourishes eternally.

To the degree that each of us seeks out the Lord our God with sincerity of heart, with the desire truly to know him and love him as he is, and not as we imagine him to be in our limited way, then we will bring that flourishing self to the whole community. At Sunday Mass, the Lord most certainly welcomes us all, however we are and in whatever state we find ourselves. And he loves us unconditionally. But his desire for us, his dream for our full blossoming as individuals and as community seeks to draw us outwards and upwards into his own vision, understanding and plan. If we let him do that, our moral lives, our social and humanitarian care, our very minds and hearts will of themselves bear abundant fruit for his glory and for our eternal happiness and peace. Let's live for God, love God, seek God out, talk about God. For in this our life consists.

With every blessing, Mgr. Peter Magee

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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): 603

St. Paul stops us in our tracks when he says in the second reading today that we can "boast about our sufferings." How is that possible? In saying that, he is not saying that suffering is of itself a good thing. Christ came to take our sufferings on himself. He spent his public life curing the sick, not making people sick!

What Paul means by "boasting about our sufferings" is that, because of our baptism which unites us to the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, anything we suffer in this life can draw us more ever deeply into union with Jesus. Baptism means that our sufferings are no longer primarily our own, but Christ's. By them, Christ is asking us to share in his suffering out of love for the salvation of the world. "Lord, I am suffering, but I firmly believe that it is You who are in me that is also bearing this suffering. In love, I give my suffering to You so that, in love, You can suffer in and with me. Suffering and loving together, You make me part of your redemption of the world."

The boast of the Christian is that his or her suffering shares in the redemptive suffering of the Cross. In such suffering, in faith, we come to know more deeply and truly the love of Christ than if we read all the books ever written on it.

Eucharistic Prayer II

The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with your Only Begotten Son and the Holy Spirit you are one God, one Lord: not in the unity of a single person, but in a Trinity of one substance.

For what you have revealed to us of your glory we believe equally of your Son and of the Holy Spirit, so that, in the confessing of the true and eternal Godhead, you might be adored in what is proper to each Person, their unity in substance, and their equality in majesty.

For this is praised by Angels and Archangels, Cherubim, too, and Seraphim, who never cease to cry out each day, as with one voice they acclaim: **Holy, holy ...**

Communion Antiphon

Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

In his glorious Body, it is our faith that Jesus is with the Father. In fact, he is one with the Father. As he once said, "The Father and I are one." He does not mean by this that there is no difference between himself and the Father. He just means that the two are so united that they are bound in an eternal bond of union. It is also our faith that this eternal bond of union is itself a Person, the Holy Spirit. In other words, wherever the Son is, there, too, are the Father and the Spirit.

In holy communion, we receive the Body and Blood of the Son. But by that very fact, we receive the Father and the Spirit, not bodily but in their ineffable divine reality. As a result, holy communion binds us in a bond with the Trinity itself. It makes us one with the Trinity and one in the Trinity. You and I and everyone else on the earth who today receives the Eucharist in a worthy state: we meet one another at our deepest truth in the deepest truth of God, the Blessed Trinity.

Hymn for Communion (Largs): 720

MARIAN ANTIPHON

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy

Recessional Hymn (Largs): 753

A small boy was at the zoo with his father.

They were looking at the tigers, and his father was telling him how ferocious they were.

"Daddy, if the tigers got out and ate you up..."

"Yes, son?" the father asked, ready to console him.

"...Which bus would I take home?"