

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 28th JULY 2019

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

PREPARATION FOR MASS

You may recall the story in the Gospel of the woman who suffered from internal bleeding. The haemorrhaging had been going on for twelve years. She had spent all her money on doctors but was getting worse. She hears of Jesus and his power of healing. Through the crowd, she manages to get near him and touch the hem of his cloak. Immediately, she senses within herself that she has been healed. At her touch, Jesus had felt power leave him and made a point of finding out that it was her. Her faith had drawn out his power. Joyful, he blessed her and let her go.

This story well describes in some way what happens at Mass. We are all “bleeding”, i.e., our human life is passing away; we all haemorrhage the grace of God to the degree that we sin; no earthly “doctor” can give us life or restore grace to our hearts. And so, like the woman, we come to Jesus among the crowd at Mass, filled with faith, wanting him to give us eternal life, to stop the loss of grace and heal the wounds of our sins. And we do that, not by merely touching the hem of some garment, but by receiving whole and entire Jesus Christ himself. Joyfully, he oblige.

Whenever we attend Mass with true faith and hope and with a genuine love for our Saviour, the work of our redemption is accomplished in us again and again. Of all the miracles Jesus performed in his life, the Eucharist is the greatest. When we receive it, we mount the Cross with him, enter the tomb with him, rise from the dead with him, ascend into heaven with him and receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit through him. This all happens “via” the sacrament, in spirit and truth – but it truly happens. It prepares us to see him face to face.

Opening Hymn (Largs): 706

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said, ‘How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.’

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, ‘Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?’ the Lord replied, ‘If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.’

Abraham replied, ‘I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?’ ‘No,’ he replied ‘I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.’ Again Abraham said to him, ‘Perhaps there will only be forty there.’ ‘I will not do it’ he replied ‘for the sake of the forty.’

Abraham said, ‘I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.’ ‘I will not do it’ he replied ‘if I find thirty there.’ He said, ‘I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.’ ‘I will not destroy it’ he replied ‘for the sake of the twenty.’ He said, ‘I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.’ ‘I will not destroy it’ he replied ‘for the sake of the ten.’

Ps. 137: On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

Colossians 2:12-14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished one of his disciples said, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘Say this when you pray: “Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test.”’

He also said to them: ‘Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, “My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him”; and the man answers from inside the house, “Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it you.” I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship’s sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

‘So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

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

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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 on 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 29/7: St. Martha	1 John 4:7-16 John 11:19-27 Liturgical colour: white
Tuesday 30/7: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor (d. 450)	17 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
Wednesday 31/7: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest (d. 1556)	17 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
Thursday 1/8: St. Alphonsus Mary de' Liguori, Bishop & Doctor (d. 1787)	17 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
Friday 2/8: St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop (d. 371)	17 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
Saturday 3/8: Mary, Queen of the Apostles	17 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
Sunday 4/8: 18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	18 th Week, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: green

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 27 th July, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 28 th July, 10am	Tony O'Hare
Sun 28 th July, 12.15pm	Those who suffer addiction
Mon 29 th July, 10am	Christopher Smith
Tues 30 th July, 10am	Ellen McSwiggan
Wed 31 st July, 10am	David Hume
Thurs 1 st August, 10am	Susan Coll
Fri 2 nd August, 7pm	Ann Murphy
Sat 3 rd August, 10am	John Rourke
Sat 3 rd August, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 4 th August 10am	Bernadette Magee
Sun 4 th August, 12.15pm	Joe McGinty

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, Colette McCafferty, Alex Gregg, Sarah McDougall, Bruce McDougall, Jessie Clements, Baby Ava May Cleary. **Recently Deceased:** Elsie Brodie **Anniversaries:** May Johnson.

NOTICES

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

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WHITHORN: Sunday 25th August. A sheet is available at the back of both parish churches for anyone who wishes to sign up. The Mass will be at 4pm near St. Ninian's cave, with another at 4.45pm in the parish church in Whithorn for those unable to walk to the beach. Bus departs in front of St. Mary's church at 11.15am.

NATIONAL YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ST ANDREWS: On Saturday 31st August young people from all over Scotland will gather in St Andrews, Fife. Contact Fr Stephen McGrattan on stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk to reserve a place or for more details.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN: Sunday 1st September, with Mass at 3pm. Confessions available from 1pm to 2.30pm. The relics of St. Therese of Lisieux will be present during the pilgrimage. For more information, visit www.carfingrotto.org

CATHOLIC VOICES (SCOTLAND): A public speaking training weekend on "how to communicate the Faith without raising your voice" will be held in Dalmally, Argyll from 8pm on Friday 2 August to 6pm on Sunday 4 August. Cost, £100 or £50 for students. More info from dermot.grenham@gmail.com.

SVDP PHONE NUMBER: 07950 586214. Please direct all enquiries and requests directly to this number.

CHANA GROUP (Largs): Toiletries are urgently needed for the Irvine hostel. A box will be left during July in the church porch for any donations of relative items. Many thanks.

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

RECENT INCOME

	LARGS	MILLPORT
Main collection	£626.42 (21/7)	£287.44 (14/7) £290.30 (21/7)
Other	£571.59 (21/7)	---
Sea Sunday	---	£189.92 (14/7)
Building Fund	---	£127.39 (21/7)

Eureka!

It's a great feeling when you suddenly solve a mystery or crack the crossword puzzle without anyone's help. You might find yourself saying "gotcha!" or "yesssss!" or even "eureka!" This last word "eureka" literally means, "I've found it." It was made famous by a certain Archimedes, a

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Greek scientist from the third century BC. He is said to have cried out “eureka!” from his bath when he realised that the volume of water displaced as he got into it was the same as the volume of his body submerged in it.

As we all know, though, it’s often rather difficult in the face of life’s conundrums to reach the “eureka point” on our own. That difficult crossword clue or overly complex plot in a film can just leave you stumped. In these cases, it’s only when someone else reveals the answer or unravels the plot for us that we can say, “now I see.” But we can’t say “eureka” because we did not solve it on our own.

This is what happens when we try to solve the “riddle” of God unaided. By our own efforts, we can detect some things, but in the end we are left stumped. In part, this is due to the sheer gap between our limited human minds and the infinity and holiness of God. In part, our mind is weakened or darkened by the effects of original sin. In part, too, we sense that coming to know God might demand changes in our lives, so we resist knowing him better, whatever the reason. We could therefore say that sometimes the mind isn’t *able* to reach the “eureka point” and sometimes it doesn’t *want* to reach it; it resists.

Given the incapacity of our minds to say “eureka” in the face of the “God problem”, we need the “divine Poirot” himself to shed light on them so that we can come to say “now I see, now I understand!” If, in the process, for some reason we don’t like what we see, we can choose to block that light; it is a choice, though, with its own consequences.

So, what is this light given to our minds?

At some point or other, you may have come across the word “revelation” in your Christian life. It is used to describe God’s initiative of *directly and personally* showing himself and his plan for the world. As I mentioned last week, he already reveals himself *indirectly* to us through creation. But, at a time of his own choosing, he began to reveal himself very directly, step by step, in human history. The light of revelation dawned. He did it in ways that were suited to the stage of development at which the human race found itself. It begins in earnest with God’s call to Abraham and is fulfilled, this side of eternity, in the revelation of Jesus himself as the Son of God, first, to Mary and the apostles and then, through them, “to the ends of the earth.”

Revelation took place in different ways: firstly, through creation, as we have already seen; secondly, through the history of the people of Israel; and thirdly, through his Word “spoken through the prophets” and supremely in his own Son, himself the living and incarnate Word of God.

God’s revelation enables the willing mind to see not only those hidden things about God which were beyond our ken (e.g. the Trinity, eternal life, the sacraments, etc.). It also enables it to see more clearly and fully those things which it could already know by its own power, but just not as fully and as clearly as God intended it to know them (e.g. the dignity of the human person, moral truth, the purpose of

society, etc.). As already said, the reason for this weakness comes down to our fallen natural condition.

In this regard, Pope Pius XII said that man needs the light of God’s revelation, not only about those things that exceed his understanding, but also “about those religious and moral truths which of themselves are not beyond the grasp of human reason, so that even in the present condition of the human race, they can be known by all men with ease, with firm certainty and with no admixture of error” (from the encyclical, “*Humani Generis*”, n.3).

So, God does not reveal himself to us simply to “dazzle” our minds, or to show up their weakness or somehow to interfere with the way we think. After all, it was he who gave us our intelligence in the first place; he treasures it. Before original sin, the human being was free of any defect of mind and of any other human faculty. The Fall caused a lot of damage to us, spiritually, mentally and physically, but it did not destroy us completely or immediately. Our destruction could not have been further from the mind and heart of God. His intention is only to save our humanity, to call it back to, and beyond, the dignity and integrity it had before the Fall. The salvation Jesus won for us not only restores us to what we had before original sin: it raises us to participate in the very life of God through the flesh of Jesus.

God’s revelation of himself to us shows that he is the true Lover and Friend of the human being, as well as our Lord and God. He wants our hearts and souls to be pure again; he wants our minds to see and embrace the truth as fully as he had originally intended; he wants our bodies to rise and breathe with the same life with which Christ himself lives. So, neither the truth of divine revelation nor the grace of the sacraments is the enemy of our humanity, of our true happiness or of our fulfilment as human beings. On the contrary, they are their guarantee - so long as we cooperate with them with open heart and open head, with spiritual and intellectual humility. We cannot “solve the problem of God” through science or philosophy. These fail in the face of God. God’s revealed truth is beyond their pay grade.

The sins and failures of followers of Jesus, beginning with Judas and Peter right up to the criminal clergy of our day, are the enemy of our humanity and Christianity. But their infidelity does not make God unfaithful. Their betrayals do not mean that God betrays either himself or us. Their denials do not mean that God denies either himself or us. It is precisely because their behaviour obscures and scandalizes our minds and hearts that we need to have recourse all the more to the Father, to Christ Jesus, to the light of revelation and to the grace of the sacraments.

However loathsome and catastrophic the sins of the sons and daughters of the Church may be across the ages we must not let them darken the light of revelation in our minds and hearts. Indeed, they *cannot* do so for that light is the “light which shines in the darkness, a light which darkness cannot overpower” (Jn 1:4).

(Adapted from the Catechism, nn.36-38) - Mgr. Peter Magee

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The Nicene Creed

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, (At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.) 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Hymn for Procession of Gifts (Largs): 971

“When we have a break from our activities, especially in the holidays, we often take up a book we want to read. It is on this very aspect that I would first like to reflect today.

Each one of us needs time and space for recollection, meditation and calmness.... Thanks be to God that this is so! In fact, this need tells us that we are not made for work alone, but also to think, to reflect or even simply to follow with our minds and our hearts a tale, a story in which to immerse ourselves, in a certain sense “to lose ourselves” to find ourselves subsequently enriched.

Of course, many of these books to read, which we take in our hands during our vacation are at best an escape, and this is normal. Yet various people, particularly if they have more time in which to take a break and to relax, devote themselves to something more demanding. I would therefore like to make a suggestion: why not discover some of the books of the Bible which are not commonly well known? Or those from which we heard certain passages in the liturgy but which we never read in their entirety? Indeed, many Christians never read the Bible and have a very limited and superficial knowledge of it. The Bible, as the name says, is a collection of books, a small “library” that came into being in the course of a millennium.”

(Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, 3 August 2011)

Eucharistic Prayer III

The Mystery of Salvation

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, through Christ our Lord.

For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead he gave us life eternal.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim: **Holy, holy ...**

Communion Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

“Open to me, Lord, the path of life and lead me in the ways of your will. Make me understand the restlessness which makes me a man of the road, this curiosity which makes me an investigator of beauty and gives me the will to do some good on the earth. Help me grasp the beauty of things and the word which you express from the depths of them for my instruction.

Grant me to understand the goodness of things and to use them aright for your glory and for my happiness. Enable me to understand the people I meet on my way, the pain they hide and those who share with me the fatigue of the journey. Give me a love of adventure and the satisfaction of discovery; give me the gift of true friendship and of true joy. Make me warm, attentive, magnanimous, pure and merciful.

Make me hear the voice of the street, the one which invites me onto the pathways of the world to know ever more gifts of your love: the voice which treads out the path of hearts, which knows the ways on high where you live in the splendour of the Truth. Far from you and from your ways, make me feel the uselessness of everything. Grant me to reach your home where you are true Beauty, undying Light, total Love and perfect Rest for all the saints. Amen.

(Prayer for a good holiday, by St. John Paul II)

Hymn for Communion (Largs): 625

MARIAN ANTIPHON: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy (recited at 6pm Vigil). Sung as the Salve Regina (n. 367) at the 10am Mass.

Recessional Hymn (Largs): 654

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.