

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (Year A), 1st DECEMBER 2019

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

PREPARATION FOR MASS

We are used to talking about the first and the second comings of Christ: the first, in the humility of the Incarnation; the second, in the glory of the Parousia or end of time. But, as Saint Bernard rightly points out, between the first and the last comings there is also a “middle” coming. Saint Bernard calls it Christ’s coming “in spirit and in power.” And, in fact, Jesus himself refers to this when he says, for example, “if anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we shall come to him” (John 14:23).

Far be it from me to emulate Saint Bernard, but I think it is the experience of all of us that there is not just one “middle coming” of Jesus: there are many. Most especially, there is the coming of Jesus at every Mass, in Word and above all in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Paradoxically, he does not just come and, as it were, disappear again: he stays! He stays within us and, above all, He stays in the Eucharist itself in the Tabernacle.

So, we have this “tension” between Jesus being with us, coming to us and yet seeming to be absent. There is an “already”: he’s here! But there’s also a “not yet”: he’s not here! He is present in one form, but absent in the fullness of his glorious form. That is why Advent has always been the season, from earliest times, of crying out “Marana tha!” or “Come, Lord Jesus!” We long to see him face to face, “we long to see Thee so.” “O come, o come, Emmanuel.” Emmanuel means “God is with us” and yet we call upon him to hear us and to come.

Opening Hymn (Largs): 92

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Isaiah’s vision foretells the international peace which will prevail in the future era of the Messiah. That peace will result from the universal observance by humanity of the law and authority of God. All conflict and war begin in the heart of man when he discards the will of God to assert his own. God’s is the only authority that assures lasting peace. Whoever truly wants peace will want to obey the will of God. Otherwise, war and conflict are inevitable.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the

Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’ He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Ps. 121: I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

“The night” means life under the shadows of sin and death. Christ’s resurrection has inaugurated the new light of the everlasting day. And so, the night is almost over: sin is almost over, death is almost over. They cannot survive the inevitable and inexorable arrival of the Rising Sun, the Risen Son. To live with Him now is to be armoured with a light which darkness cannot overpower. To persist in sin is to prefer the darkness. Shine, Jesus, shine!

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So, stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

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
 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 (with Exposition from 9am)

Confessions

Largs: Friday, after 7pm Mass; Saturday, after 10am Mass and from 5.00-5.45pm.
 Millport: After 10am Mass on Thursday.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

COMMEMORATION	READINGS
Monday 2/12: Mass of the day	1 st Week of Advent Liturgical colour: purple
Tuesday 3/12: St. Francis Xavier, Priest (d. 1552)	1 st Week of Advent Liturgical colour: white
Wednesday 4/12: Mass of the day	1 st Week of Advent Liturgical colour: purple
Thursday 5/12: Mass of the day	1 st Week of Advent Liturgical colour: purple
Friday 6/12: Mass of the day	1 st Week of Advent Liturgical colour: purple
Saturday 7/12: St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor (d. 397)	1 st Week of Advent Liturgical colour: white
Sunday 8/12: 2nd Sunday of Advent	Proper Readings

MASS INTENTIONS

Date & Time	Intention
Sat 30 November, 6pm	All Souls
Sun 1 December, 10am	All Parishioners
Sun 1 December 12.15pm	In Thanksgiving
Mon 2 December, 10am	Madeleine Ribeiro
Tues 3 December, 10am	Maureen Aird
Wed 4 December, 10am	Isobel McCall
Thurs 5 December, 10am	Canon Felix McCarney
Fri 6 December, 7pm	Canon John McElroy
Sat 7 December, 10am	Anne Kane
Sat 7 December, 6pm	Kenneth McComish
Sun 8 December, 10am	Ann Lundy
Sun 8 December, 12.15pm	All Parishioners

Sick: Margaret Ryding, Margaret Gallagher, Anne Gaffney, Maria Kelly (Millport), Fr. Gerard Hamill, Lidia Tracey, Helen McShane, Peter Leitch, Colette McCafferty, Alex Gregg, Sarah McDougall, Bruce McDougall, Jessie Clements, Baby Ava May Cleary, Teresa Black, Peter McConville, Claire McConville, Bill Morgan, Teresa Barrett, Lizzie Park, Angela Bebbington, Nelson Bebbington, Ness Cranston, Francis Livingstone, Lorraine McBride, Tommy Monaghan, Marie Gómez Fernández, Phyllis Rutherford, Margaret

Rutherford, Elsie Jackson. **Recently Deceased:** Gerry Graham.

NOTICES

CANON MATT McMANUS: We warmly welcome Canon Matt to St. Mary's for the 10am this Sunday.

PARISHES' ROSARY INTENTION: This week, I propose that we pray for peace and mutual understanding in married and family life in our parishes.

DO SOMETHING FOR ADVENT: Advent is a penitential season, too. Why not try and give your spiritual life a new injection of grace? Visit the Blessed Sacrament during the day, even on one day of the week; google "prayer" and see what comes up; talk to a friend about your faith; say the Jesus prayer as you drive to work or walk to the shops, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner"; read the story of a few saints; jot down every day or every week a few heartfelt words to Christ or Mary or Whoever in a spiritual jotter; investigate again just what the grace of baptism means for your life; instead of avoiding confession or dismissing it, try and get to grips once again with the true meaning and experience of what it is; if you can, take a few hours of silence at home or somewhere else; draw a painting of your favourite Gospel story; write a song or a poem to the Lord. The possibilities are endless! But are we willing?

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE (Largs): Five priests will hear individual confessions on Thursday 19th December at 2pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed throughout.

CATHEDRAL SUNG EVENING PRAYER FOR ADVENT: Evening Prayer of the Church will be sung in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Sunday, 1st December at 6.00 pm. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: To help you with your festive plans, I intend to celebrate a Christmas Vigil Mass in Millport at 4.30pm on Tuesday 24th December, a Christmas "Midnight" Mass at 7.30pm in Largs on Tuesday 24th December and a 10am Christmas "Dawn" Mass on Wednesday 25th December.

ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Please note the following: 1) Christmas Fayre on Tuesday, 3rd December from 3-5pm at the school (entrance by Largs Academy door). 2) Nativity play on Tuesday 17th December at 6.30pm in the school hall.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY: Ends this Sunday. There will be a special collection for this purpose at all Masses this weekend.

SERVICE OF LIGHT AND REMEMBRANCE: Saturday 7th December at 2pm in St Columba's Scottish Episcopal Church. Organized by Wm. Tyre and Largs Churches Together.

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE: St Columba's Scottish Episcopal Church on Sunday 1st December 2019 at 6.30pm.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE (Millport): Cathedral of the Isles, Millport, Sunday 1st December at 3pm. All are invited.

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POST OF PART TIME DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: For details see advert on Diocesan Website www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk Job description and application form available from Diocesan Office_T – 01292 266750. E – administration@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS: For direct access to our Parish Safeguarding Coordinators: 1) Largs (Gordon Sutherland) – 07707 598929; 2) Millport (Donnie McGilveray) – 07852 753874.

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

CHANA at CHRISTMAS (Largs): We would like to provide Christmas presents for those in the Hostels and in Supported Accommodation this year. We are appealing for Gift Sets of Toiletries, new Pyjamas (small/medium) and hats/gloves mostly for men. Please use the CHANA box provided or they can be handed in to Ardrossan Hostel in Princes Street. Closing date for depositing gifts is Sunday 8th December.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS (Largs): Stickers are available from the stall.

BENEDICTINE MONASTERY THANKS: For the support by parishioners of the recent Christmas Fayre. £2,700 was raised. Mass was offered for your intentions.

PRO LIFE & CHILDREN'S LITURGY (Largs): On Sunday 8th December there will be a bake sale in the hall during the teas and coffees. The boys and girls of children's liturgy are getting very excited about Christmas, this year they would like to spread their love and take part in the gift of giving. We hope parents will help us to do this by sending in a small gift for a new baby. The children will present these gifts to the manger during Mass on Sunday 22nd December, or they can be left beside the crib at one of the Christmas Masses; or else, the gift can be left in the appropriate box in the church porch. These gifts will be distributed by our Prolife group to those who are in need. We hope you will be happy helping our children gifting a present to our Lord on his birthday.

1st LARGS BOYS' BRIGADE "CHRISTMAS POST" (Largs): Cards collected in church on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December; then from Monday 9th to Friday 13th December in Dunn Memorial Hall, St. John's Church, 10am to 12 Noon and 2pm-4.30pm. Cards can also be collected in "Hallidays", the chemist and "Superdrug." 25p per card. Largs only.

CHURCH CLEANERS (Largs): Help needed! One hour or so on Mondays after the 10am Mass.

BULLETIN: The next larger-sized bulletin will be for 15th December. Requests for notices to be included in the weekly bulletin must be submitted by 12 Noon on **Wednesdays**.

RECENT INCOME

	LARGS	MILLPORT
Main collection	£543.06 (17/11) £478.18 (24/11)	£132.86 (17/11) £131.03 (24/11)
Other	£49.98 (17/11) £51.27 (24/11)	---

	LARGS	MILLPORT
Building Fund	---	£62.2 (17/11) £56.96 (24/11)
Eccles. Students Propaganda Fide Church Decorat.	£169.22 £154.03 £331.33	---

From the Catholic Parliamentary Officer

Dear Reverend Father

General Election 2019

As we approach polling day on Thursday 12th December all the candidates in your constituency will compete for your vote and for the votes of your parishioners. This General Election presents us with an opportunity to elect an individual representative who reflects as closely as possible our beliefs, including our belief in the inherent dignity and value of every human being.

The incumbent MP for your parish is *Patricia Gibson* of the SNP and I understand she is standing again in this election. Their voting record on some important issues is included below.

Please also visit <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/mps/> for a full voting record of *Patricia Gibson*.

I urge you and your parishioners to contact **all** candidates in your constituency and to challenge them on the issues raised in the Bishops' Conference of Scotland Pastoral Letter on the General Election 2019 that was recently sent to you (copies are available in the church porch).

Selected Voting Record of Patricia Gibson

Subject	Vote
To legalise same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland. (Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill) July 2019	ABSTAINED
To allow for abortion up to 28 weeks in Northern Ireland. (Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill) July 2019	ABSTAINED
Decriminalise abortion. Clearing the way for abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth. (Abortion Bill) October 2018	ABSTAINED
To legalise assisted suicide (Assisted Dying (No 2) Bill) September 2015	ABSTAINED

"Abstained" means that the MP decided not to vote on the matter.

Yours Sincerely
Anthony Horan
Catholic Parliamentary Officer

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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): 83

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
Jesus, Redeemer, save us all,
And hear Thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe,
Hast found the medicine, full of grace,
To save and heal a ruined race.

Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide;
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The spotless victim all divine.

At whose dread name, majestic now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
And things celestial Thee shall own,
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.

O Thou whose coming is with dread
To judge and doom the quick and dead,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every insult of the foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might and glory be
From age to age eternally.

This hymn is attributed to St. Ambrose whose feast day is on 7 December. Ambrose was proclaimed bishop by the people of Milan because, though still not baptised at the time, he believed and taught as the Council of Nicaea had proclaimed that Jesus Christ was truly God and man, the Divine Second Person of the Holy Trinity incarnate. Ambrose, the lay governor of Milan, was baptized, ordained and consecrated bishop within seven days!

Eucharistic Prayer

The two comings of Christ

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 he assumed at his first coming
the lowliness of human flesh,
and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago,
and opened for us the way to eternal salvation,
that, when he comes again in glory and majesty
and all is at last made manifest,
we who watch for that day
may inherit the great promise
in which now we dare to hope. And so, with all ...

Communion Antiphon

**The Lord will bestow his bounty and our earth
shall yield its increase.**

Holy Communion both satisfies our longing for union with Jesus and feeds our longing for him to come definitively, to show himself, to reveal his face. It reassures us that he is Emmanuel, "God-with-us", and that yet he is "God-still-to-come-back-to-us." So, we are caught in a tension, one that looks ahead in hope and expectation, in trust and holy restlessness.

Holy Communion feeds our hope and restlessness for Christ. It drives us to turn all our life and our whole life towards him. It gradually releases us from the bonds of sin and even the shackles that would keep our focus fixed on our noses. Holy Communion offers perspective, horizon, élan, direction; it drives us to our goal because it is our goal. Indeed, Christ is the goal of every human who walks this earth and of the earth itself. In Christ we reach the fulfilment of our personal life history and of history itself.

Don't get stuck on Christmas Day during Advent, but aim and stir your heart to reach Christ's Day.

Hymn for Communion (Largs): 989

**MARIAN ANTIPHON: Alma Redemptoris Mater
(n. 38a) at the 10am Mass only.**

Recessional Hymn (Largs): 108