

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A), 17th May 2020

FIRST COMMUNION HUNGER

Today would have been First Holy Communion Day for the children of Primary 4 in St. Mary's, Largs. I know how disappointed they are that it is not happening, because I know how well they have been prepared to meet the Lord Jesus for the first time in this most wonderful of all Sacraments. Let's hope that a new date can be set soon!

Yet, what this unexpected delay can teach not only the children but all of us is how to hunger again for Holy Communion as if it were our First Holy Communion. Think of the excitement and joy of anticipation; think of the simplicity of heart and of faith with which we received our First Communion; think of how it felt on that very first occasion to enter into such a special and close rapport with our Saviour; think of how important and "grown-up" it made us feel as we were initiated into receiving the host as we had seen our parents and older siblings receive it before us. Consider all this – and so much more! - deeply and lovingly. Let it stir your hunger once more.

In seminary, I was reminded just before my ordination to the priesthood that I should celebrate every Mass as if it were my first Mass – and my last Mass. This pointed not only to the uniqueness of the sacrifice which every Mass makes sacramentally present to us, but also to the fervour, the devotion, the intensity of preparation and of thanksgiving that should be associated with every Mass. Perhaps, though, the same thing could be applied to the reception of Holy Communion: that we should all receive it like P4, as if it were our First Holy Communion, but also as if it were our Last Holy Communion. For, in truth, it might just be.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 8:5-8,14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm 65(66):1-7,16,20

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:13-16

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

Gospel

John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA
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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR
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Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee
PP's email: peter.magee@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

Mass

You Tube (YT): Saturday Vigil, 6pm; Sunday, 10am; Mon-Sat, 10am.

WEEKLY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

COMMEMORATION	READINGS
18/5: Monday of 6 th Week of Eastertide	Proper Liturgical colour: white
19/5: Tuesday of 6 th Week of Eastertide	Proper Liturgical colour: white
20/5: Wednesday of 6 th Week of Eastertide	Proper Liturgical colour: white
21/5: Ascension of the Lord	Proper Liturgical colour: white
22/5: Friday of 6 th Week of Eastertide	Proper Liturgical colour: white
23/5: Saturday Mass of Our Lady in Eastertide	Proper Liturgical colour: blue
24/5: Seventh Sunday of Easter	Proper Liturgical colour: white

MASS INTENTIONS

Date & Time	Intention
Sat 16 May, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 17 May, 10am	Jim Kelly
Mon 18 May, 10am	Rosemary Caton
Tues 19 May, 10am	William Wallace
Wed 20 May, 10am	Angus Westley
Thurs 21 May, 10am	Peter O'Brien
Fri 22 May, 10am	Cathrin Higgins
Sat 23 May, 10am	May Holland
Sat 23 May, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 24 May, 10am	Jack Keane

Sick: Margaret Gallagher, Maria Kelly (Millport), Lidia Tracey, Helen McShane, Peter Leitch, Colette McCafferty, Alex Greig, Sarah McDougall, Bruce McDougall, Jessie Clements, Baby Ava May Cleary, Teresa Black, Peter McConville, Claire McConville, Bill Morgan, Teresa Barrett, Lizzie Park, Ness Cranston, Francis Livingstone, Lorraine McBride, Tommy Monaghan, Marie Gómez Fernández, Margaret Rutherford, Martin Doherty, Ben Brownlie, Sheena Lane, William Percy, Roddy Galbraith, Donal Hughes, Jonny Bilchak, James Reddoch, May Holland, Richard Dorman, William Caughey, Jessie Barr, Eileen Walker, Agnes Monaghan. **Recently Deceased:** Cathrin Higgins, Rosemary Cato, Peggy Latham, Dorothy Cameron.
Anniversaries: Angus Westley.

NOTICES

ASCENSION THURSDAY: Thursday, 21st May, is Ascension Thursday. It would normally have been a holiday of

obligation. I would still encourage parishioners to try and participate in a live-streamed Mass somewhere on that day. I will not celebrate a Vigil Mass for the Feast (which would have been the Wednesday evening) but only the live-streamed 10am Mass on the Thursday itself.

MASS FOR THE LONELY: On Friday 22nd May, I invite both parishes to pray in a special way for those who are suffering from loneliness, especially at this time. Not all who live alone are lonely, and not all who live with others are free from loneliness. From our faith, how do we cope with loneliness, how should we turn it to our advantage? I will consider these and other matters during 10am Mass this coming Friday.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: If anyone wishes to receive this sacrament, please phone or email me and we can set up a time and place to celebrate the sacrament in a "safe" manner.

SUNDAY 17th MAY, EVENING DEVOTIONS: Exposition from 6.30pm, with Rosary, the Ecumenical Prayer at 7pm and followed by Benediction.

MONDAY 18th MAY: Centenary of the birth of Pope St. John Paul II.

PARISHES' ROSARY INTENTION: For a swift end to the coronavirus.

PRAYERLINE: To ask for prayers, phone: 078037 48251.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF "LAUDATO SI": To commemorate this encyclical letter of Pope Francis, "Laudato Si" week runs from 16th to 24th May, with the 24th being a day of prayer. Resources can be found at laudatosiweek.org. A video of Pope Francis inviting us to take part is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/DHlzOWp8ZOY>

SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: In the weekly bulletin, we rightly remember to pray for the sick and the dead by listing the names of those made known to the PP. I would like to suggest that, from now on, we also include the names of those who celebrate significant birthdays and anniversaries. It is a way of celebrating health and life, and not just of remembering the sick and the dead. A significant birthday would be 18 or 40 or 65 or 80, 90, 100! A significant anniversary would be, in the case of marriage, all the usual ones that are given names: wooden (?), silver, gold, etc.. Please either pop a note of the name and significant birthday or anniversary through the letterbox of the presbytery or send me an email at the email addresses given at the top of the opposite column.

WEEKLY COLLECTION: If you are able, please put any contribution through the letter-box of either parish house. If you wish to set up a standing order via the bank, please contact the Mrs. Karen Govaerts, who will help you. Tel: 07542 570863. Please note that bank details will not be provided by email and I would ask you not to share them with anyone else by email. Ask anyone who asks you to phone Karen. Many thanks.

PARISH MOBILE PHONE: It seems to be out of order, I'm afraid. If you have phoned or texted me on it over the past few weeks, I have not received your messages!

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.

BULLETIN: The next larger-sized bulletin will be for **24th May**. Requests for notices to be included in the weekly bulletin must be submitted by 12 Noon on **Wednesdays**.

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ECUMENICAL PRAYER **To Be Recited together at 7pm** **Sunday, 17th May**

Living God, you are our Creator and our Maker And
the very breath of life is given as your gift. We thank you
for the gift of life

And we embrace and treasure that gift.

Living God, you are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
Whose presence in the world reveals your love for us. In
the giving of your Son,
You reveal the depths of your love.

Living God, your Son embraced the Cross And the
depths of human suffering,
We thank you that you delivered him
On the day of Resurrection.

Living God, as you spoke to the bereft and the orphaned
in days past, Speak to the bereft and the orphaned in
days present.
Speak to the uncertain and the anxious.
Speak into the depths of our incomprehension and fear.

Living God, your promise
Is that we will not be left alone to face the world. We
thank you that through the gift of your Spirit That
promise is fulfilled.

Living God, be with all who sustain our common life at
this time, Carers and nurses, cleaners and porters,
Doctors and ambulance staff, delivery drivers and
posties. Through their giving our common life is
sustained.

Living God, as you have watched over us in the past,
Watch over us in the present.
As once more we thank you, that through Christ And by
your Holy Spirit, we are not alone. Amen.

NOVENA PRAYER FOR PROTECTION **IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**

*All Parishioners are invited to say this prayer for nine consecutive days
beginning on whatever day you choose. The Novena can then be repeated
as long as necessary.*

O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us

as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
suffering and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

***We fly to thy patronage,
O most Holy Mother of God.
Despise not our prayers in our necessities
But ever deliver us from all dangers,
O most Glorious and Blessed Virgin!***

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

“Paula Magliocco of Pewaukee, Wis., is a busy mother of three and a Catholic elementary-school teacher. Yet, in spite of her hectic life, she finds time to make a spiritual communion, not just once, but several times throughout the day. Why? Because it’s easy, takes only a moment, and offers benefits beyond compare.

“Receiving the Eucharist is really the joy of my life, so when I cannot receive sacramentally, I know that the next best way for union with Christ is a spiritual communion,” she said. “Jesus is always ready and waiting to unite his heart with ours; and all we need to do is turn to him in prayer, and he is there with his arms wide open and the graces flowing.”

A spiritual communion is different from an actual or sacramental communion, in which we receive the Real Presence in the consecrated Host and Precious Blood. A spiritual communion is a devotion that we can initiate on our own, either inside or outside of holy Mass. We can make a spiritual communion at any time and in any place, as long as we approach the devotion with “renewed faith, reverence, humility and in complete trust in the goodness of the divine Redeemer” and are “united to him in the spirit of the most ardent charity,” according to Pope Pius XII’s encyclical *Mediator Dei* (The Sacred Liturgy). In spiritual communion, we embrace Our Lord as if we had actually received him in the Eucharist.

Redemptorist Father Jim White, who runs the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc, Wis., suggests a four-step method of spiritual communion, one that he himself practices in the footsteps of St. Alphonsus

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Liguori as a retreat master. First, make an act of faith. This can be one using the formal prayer taught by the Church (see sidebar) or an extemporaneous one. The main point is to express to Our Lord our firm belief in his goodness and mercy and in his real presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Next, make an act of love, again either using the formal prayer of the Church or an extemporaneous one. The act should express our love for Jesus. Then, we express our desire to receive him. Finally, we invite Jesus to come into our hearts spiritually. St. Alphonsus recommended that we even open our mouths as if receiving actual communion.

“This puts us in the state of mind of being in union with Jesus,” Father White explained. “It’s very simple, it only takes a moment, and we can do it during our work, our studies or anything else we may be doing.” Spiritual communion gives us a greater awareness of God’s overall presence in our lives and increases our faith in the Real Presence. So, the more we spiritually communicate, the more united we become with Christ. The Church recommends making spiritual communions as often as possible, even if we’re able to participate in Mass that day. It also is advisable to make at least three spiritual communions during Mass: at the beginning, at the consecration and at the end.

Spiritual communion is valuable, not only for its unity with Jesus and ability to increase our faith in the Eucharist, but for other reasons as well. Whenever we make a spiritual communion, we please God and receive an abundance of his graces. St. Alphonsus taught that the Church grants a partial indulgence of 300 days with every act of spiritual communion and a plenary indulgence once monthly when made under the usual conditions. The Enchiridion on Indulgences defines an indulgence as, “the remission before God of the temporal punishment due for sins already forgiven as far as their guilt is concerned.” Indulgences are granted only when the person has a proper disposition and under certain conditions prescribed by the Church. A partial indulgence removes part of the temporal punishment due for sin. A plenary indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment due for sin and, according to the enchiridion, must be accompanied by confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayer for the intention of the Pope. The person also must be in the state of grace.

Saints throughout the ages have witnessed to the value of spiritual communion (see their prayers below). In a vision, Our Lord explained it to St. Catherine of Siena by showing her two chalices: one made of gold, the other of silver. He told her that her sacramental Communion were preserved in the gold chalice and that her spiritual communions were in the silver chalice. He told Blessed Jane of the Cross that each time she communicated spiritually, she received graces of the same kind as those received in sacramental Communion.

(Abridged version of article by Marge Fenelon in the National Catholic Register, 1.11.11)

Brief Acts of Spiritual Communion

May the burning and most sweet power of thy love, O Lord Jesus Christ, I beseech thee, absorb my mind, that I may die through love of thy love, who wast graciously pleased to die through love of my love. Amen. — St. Francis of Assisi

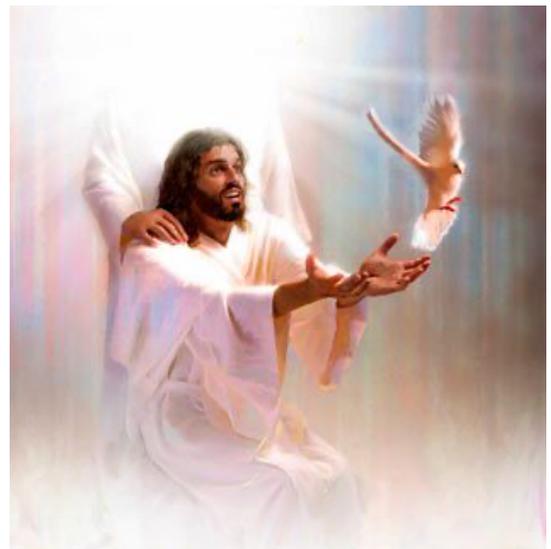
“O love not loved! O love not known!” — St. M. Magdalene of Pazzi

“O my spouse, when wilt thou take me to thyself?” — St. Peter of Alcantara

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Communion Antiphon

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.



Jesus says in the Gospel today that he will send us the Holy Spirit. Where is the Holy Spirit in this picture? Who is standing behind Jesus?

In one word (beginning with “T” and ending with “y”), who is in this picture?

Where is the dove going? The answer is in the Gospel!

Jesus gives the Holy Spirit two names in today’s Gospel. See if you can find them.

Jesus say that he will show himself to people who do a certain thing: what is it? Who is it that gives us the power to do that?

Sing with your family: Shine, Jesus, shine!