

**CHILDREN'S CORNER**



Jesus has a special love for children and young people. He tells us in the Gospel today about someone else who has the same love. Who is it?

Think of three good things about children and young people that Jesus would love most.

What ages are the young people in the picture, do you think? What do you think they are all smiling about?

What would you say to Jesus or ask him if you were up that close to him? Why not write down three questions you would ask him? Go and show them to someone at home and ask them to tell you what the replies of Jesus might be!

What do you think he is saying to the young people in the picture? Might it be some of the words in the Gospel today? Have a look!

What would you just love Jesus to say to you right now? Why not find a quiet spot in the house or outside and try and listen to Jesus in your heart. He might say what you want him to say; he might not. The main thing is to take a little time every day to listen. He sometimes answers without using words!

As well as young people, Jesus also loves people who are finding life difficult. See if you can spot in the Gospel what he says to those people.

Always remember that especially if things get difficult for you, Jesus is very near to you. Just call on him. Listen out for him.

**SAINT MARY, STAR OF THE SEA**  
 28 Greenock Road, Largs, KA30 8NE  
**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR**  
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**Mass**  
 YouTube (YT): Saturday Vigil, 6pm; Sunday, 10am;  
 Mon-Sat, 10am.

**WEEKLY LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

COMMEMORATION	READINGS
6/7: St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr (d. 1902)	Week 14, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: red
7/7: Mass For Vocations to Holy Orders	Week 14, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: green
8/7: Mass For the Evangelization of Peoples	Week 14, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: green
9/7: <b>Our Lady of Aberdeen, Feast</b>	Proper Liturgical colour: blue
10/7: Votive Mass of Precious Blood	Week 14, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: red
11/7: <b>St. Benedict, Abbot, Feast (d. 547)</b>	Proper Liturgical colour: white
12/7: <b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Proper Liturgical colour: green

**MASS INTENTIONS**

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 4 July, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 5 July, 10am	Brian Dougan
Mon 6 July, 10am	Elizabeth McWilliams
Tues 7 July, 10am	Patrick Healey
Wed 8 July, 10am	Special Intention (AK)
Thurs 9 July, 10am	Special Intention (anon)
Fri 10 July, 10am	Thomas Jack
Sat 11 July, 10am	Gino Capocchi
Sat 11 July, 6pm	All Parishioners
Sun 12 July, 10am	Domenico Fontana

**Sick:** Margaret Gallagher, Maria Kelly (Millport), Lidia Tracy, Helen McShane, Peter Leitch, Colette McCafferty, Alex Greig, Sarah McDougall, Bruce McDougall, Jessie Clements, Baby Ava May Cleary, Teresa Black, Peter McConville, Claire McConville, 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, Jessie Barr, Eileen Walker, John Hutchison, James McGinty, Eddie McCarthy. **Recently Deceased:** Margaret Strong, Dina Conetta.

**Special Anniversaries & Birthdays: ...**

**NOTICES**

**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.

**PARISHES' ROSARY INTENTION:** For a swift end to the covid-19 pandemic.

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

**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.

**SAFEGUARDING MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS:** For direct access to our Parish Safeguarding Coordinators: 1) Largs (Gordon Sutherland) – 07700 598929; 2) Millport (.....) – 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 **12<sup>th</sup> July**. Requests for notices to be included in the weekly bulletin must be submitted by 12 Noon on **Wednesdays**.

**ECUMENICAL PRAYER**  
**To Be Recited together at 7pm**  
**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July**

Lord, we come to you as we are  
 For we can come no other way.  
 We come acknowledging the burdens we carry  
 And trusting in your promise of rest.  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
 Hear our prayer.

Lord, we come to you  
 In the sure knowledge that we are not alone.  
 We come in the company  
 Of all who know the challenge of these days.  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
 Hear our prayer.

## FOURTEENTH ORDINARY SUNDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020

Lord, we come to you  
Acknowledging that you have already come to us.  
We journey to the place where you are to be found  
And rediscover that you have always been with us.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Lord, we come to you  
As the One who knows our past and sees our present.  
Set us free from that which binds us to our past  
And liberate us to serve you in the present.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Lord, we come to you  
Through the One who is the same, yesterday, today and  
forever.  
May he hold our lives safe  
As we embrace the future and the promise of his rest.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

### 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!*

### THE WORLD OF THE WORD

As you may have noticed, the Gospel being read on  
Sundays during this year, "Year A", is St. Matthew's.  
This is repeated every three years, whilst St. Mark's is  
read on Sundays during Year B, and St. Luke's is read  
on Sundays during Year C. The Church took the  
decision to do this so that people coming to Mass  
would get a continuous reading of each of the three  
synoptic Gospels across a three-year span.

As regards the first and second readings at Mass on  
Sundays, the Church has chosen a menu of readings  
from both the Old Testament (the first reading) and  
the parts of the New Testament other than the  
Gospels, such as the Letters of St. Paul, St. Peter, etc.  
(the second reading). Across the three years, then, the  
Sunday congregation will hear the most important  
parts of both Old and New Testaments as well as the  
synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John, given its special  
nature (which I will address another time) is heard  
mainly on Sundays and weekdays of Lent and Easter

A different approach is taken at weekday Masses.  
Instead of there being Years A, B and C, we have  
Years I and II. This two-fold division was put in place,  
not with regard to the reading of the Gospel at Mass,  
but with regard to the first reading. For it is on  
weekdays that the congregation will hear most of the  
non-Gospel books of the Bible in the course of two  
years. Also, across both Year I and Year II, the three  
synoptic Gospels will be read, with the 34 weeks of  
Ordinary Time being divided roughly into three.

This means that, for example, during Year A, you will  
hear St. Matthew's Gospel on Sundays but you will  
also hear it at weekday Masses for the first part of the  
year (whether it be Year I or II).

For occasions like weddings and funerals, or on feasts  
like the Ascension or the Assumption, it will be special  
readings that will be provided. For weddings and  
funerals, the Church encourages the persons and

## FOURTEENTH ORDINARY SUNDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020

families involved to choose their readings from among  
a variety set aside for that purpose.

It was in the wake of Vatican II that the Church set  
up this arrangement so that everyone would have the  
chance to be as fully exposed to the whole of the Word  
of God as possible. Even those who do not attend  
weekday Mass can still, by getting a weekday  
lectionary, or by obtaining an app online, read at  
home the readings which the entire Church will be  
hearing on that day.

In many ways, this helps us to become much more  
familiar with the Word than if we just picked up a  
bible and started reading it where it falls open ...  
which, let's be honest, we won't do very much! It  
divides the books of the bible up and it divides up each  
book so that we can get our daily diet of the bread of  
the Word. This daily familiarity with the Word is very  
important for feeding our spiritual and moral lives.  
The Word of God is "alive and active" says the letter  
to the Hebrews. So, when you pick it up to read it with  
devotion and an open heart and mind, God himself  
will be teaching you his own wisdom. Not everyone  
can make it to church for a visit to the Blessed  
Sacrament (especially during this time), but by  
opening the Word we allow the same Lord to make a  
visit to our souls and hearts.

I know that in my own life, the Word has become a  
sort of addiction! I feel that I am in a true relationship  
with it. When you think about it, that's exactly right  
because the Word of God is not just what's printed on  
the page but what the Lord himself is continually  
speaking, from his heart to yours. The Word consoles  
and heals, it corrects and challenges, it instructs and  
enlightens, it affects not only *what* you think but *how*  
you think. Through the Word, the Lord draws us into  
his World and we allow that World to take up  
residence, to take up flesh, in us. In this way, we  
become like Our Lady or even one the prophets.

Imperceptibly, but truly and faithfully, the Word of  
God which, as we know is inspired by the Holy Spirit,  
begins to inspire us, too. As we read and reflect on and  
contemplate the Word, the Word reads and reflects  
on and contemplates us. The Word opens us up not  
only to God but also to ourselves. And therefore to  
others and indeed to the whole of creation which only  
exists because "God spoke, and it was."

If you approach the Word, then, not so much as a text  
to be read but as an encounter to be had, then you  
will fall in love with it: you will fall in love with the  
Word in Person, the Lord Jesus. You will find that the

Word is no longer just a jumble of sometimes difficult  
words and ideas, but a personal message to yourself, a  
"love letter", all of your very own, from Love Himself.

I suppose we can maybe at times be a bit reluctant to  
engage with the Word because the language can be so  
ancient and unfamiliar. People say they have no time  
for it, but it might be that it simply does not have the  
attraction that would make them want to give it time.  
The truth is, though, that, underneath the unfamiliar  
words and names and places there lies the same story  
of life, love, suffering, joy, death and hope which every  
one of us must go through in this life. There also lies  
the same God whose outstretched hand wants to  
deliver us from our fears, walk with us on our journey,  
protect us from harm, provide for our true and  
deepest needs and lead us home to himself, forgiven,  
cleansed, restored and glorified.

The thing about the Word is that you have to accept  
first of all, with a simple but clear act of faith, that it is  
indeed God's Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit to  
reveal God to us and us to God. If you make that firm  
act of faith each time you pick up the Word, your  
heart will be open and He can then work on you.

There are plenty of guides and straightforward books  
and pamphlets which explain the bible. What is it?  
Where did it come from? How long did it take to write  
it? Who wrote it? Why was it written this or that way?  
What's its purpose? Etc, etc. You could say that these  
guides, in answering these questions, help give you a  
map to find the treasure. You can't turn up in a field  
and demand the treasure to show itself! You need to  
suss it out, get digging, put in some elbow grease. In  
comparison with the treasure to be found, the toil to  
find it is not only worth it, it is nothing in comparison  
with it.

So, I encourage everyone in our parishes, young and  
old and everyone in between, to stir your loving  
curiosity to find the treasure hidden in the field. I am  
sure many of you are already well on the way and that  
others may well indeed have found it. If so, tell others  
about it and encourage them to allow the Word who  
created them to reveal himself to them, a little bit  
more each day. If we all do that (myself included!),  
what a difference it will make when we come together  
to hear the Word proclaimed at Mass. We will feel  
and know ourselves and each other to be the bearers  
as well as the hearers of the Word. In the Word  
proclaimed, we will hear the Voice of our Beloved and  
our hearts will be on fire.

*Fr. Peter*