

27th ORDINARY SUNDAY (A) & 5th SUNDAY of the SEASON OF CREATION, 04.10.2020

SAINT MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR
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Holy Mass

Largs: Saturday Vigil, 6pm; Sunday, 10am; Mon-Fri, 10am. All Masses live-streamed.

Millport: Sunday, 12.15pm (not live-streamed)

Weekday Masses are all without a congregation and live-streamed.

WEEKLY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

COMMEMORATION	READINGS
5/10: St. Faustina Kowalka, Religious (d. 1938)	Week 27, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
6/10: St. Bruno, Priest (d. 1101)	Week 27, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
7/10: Our Lady of the Rosary & Mass for the 50 th Wedding Anniversary of Margaret & Donald MacMillan	Acts 1:12-14 Luke 11:1-4 Liturgical colour: white
8/10: Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit	Week 27, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: red
9/10: St. John Henry Newman, Priest (d. 1890). Thanksgiving Mass for Celia Lewis (retiring from St. Mary's Primary School)	Week 27, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
10/10: <i>Saturday of ordinary Time</i>	<i>Week 27, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: green</i>
11/10: 28th Ordinary Sunday	Proper Liturgical colour: green

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 3 Oct, 6pm	Ann Peffers, D
Sun 4 Oct, 10am	All Parishioners
Sun 4 Oct, 12.15pm	Isobel Lightly, A
Mon 5 Oct 10am	Betty Kelly, A
Tues 6 Oct, 10am	Toni Caughey, S
Wed 7 Oct, 10am	Margaret & Donald MacMillan, SI
Thurs 8 Oct, 10am	William Caughey, D
Fri 9 Oct, 10am	Tom Rutherford, D

Sat 10 Oct, 6pm	Special Intention
Sun 11 Oct, 10am	All Parishioners
Sun 11 Oct, 12.15pm	Special Intention

A = Anniversary of Death; RD = Recently Deceased; D = Deceased; S = Sick; SI = Special Intention

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, 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, Eileen Walker, John Hutchison, James McGinty, Eddie McCarthy, Joseph Donnelly, Alistair Murphy, Isabella McNally, Benet Brodie Snr, John Gunn, Eithne Brown, Mary Lyden, Murdoch MacDougall, Ylena Green, Ellen Grant, Peter Grant, Kenneth Reader, Brian Blaney, Toni Caughey. **Recently Deceased:** Margaret Sutherland, Nan Smith, Edmund Duffy. **Anniversary of Death:** Betty Kelly, Don Donnelly. **Special Anniversaries & Birthdays:** Margaret & Donald MacMillan, 50th Wedding Anniversary, 7th October.

NOTICES

MRS MARGARET SUTHERLAND, RIP (Largs): On behalf of the whole parish, I extend our deepest, prayerful condolences to the family, relatives and friends of the late Margaret Sutherland who passed away on Saturday 26th September, Vigil of St. Mary, Star of the Sea. May the Lord welcome her into the glory of his Kingdom and comfort those who mourn her with the power and strength of his great and merciful love. The Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's on Monday, 12th October, at 11am (in strict accordance with Covid-19 restrictions), followed by the interment at the Haylie Brae Cemetery.

WEDDING BELLS: On Saturday, 17th October, at 2pm, we will have the joy of witnessing the union in the holy sacrament of Matrimony of Gillian Lewis and Colin McGowan. I invite everyone to pray for the happy couple as they prepare to "tie the knot." It is a tough time to be getting married, but their love for each other is way stronger than any abject coronavirus! Let's support them in the run-up to their big day with our love and prayers. *Please note that the wedding will be conducted according to the laws and advice of the Government and directions of the Diocese in relation to Covid-19. Please do not therefore come to the church or gather outside, so as to avoid any chance of unwanted consequences.*

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(DISTANT!) ECHOES OF WEDDING BELLS: Let's also continue to pray for and congratulate Margaret & Donald MacMillan, parishioners in Millport, whose Golden Wedding Anniversary is on 7th October.

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Largs): The children from St. Mary's Primary who missed out on their First Reconciliation in March will receive the Sacrament on 5th and 6th of October at the school. I invite all parishioners to pray for the children and their families.

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

SERVICE OF THE WORD: Sunday, 6.30pm (live-streamed) with a sermon. Ecumenical prayer recitation at 7pm.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS: Live-streamed exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4.30pm on Thursday, 8th October. Rosary & Benediction at 6.30pm.

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

ROSARY ON THE COAST: Takes place each day of October at 8pm in the evening. To join in, you would need to go to: <https://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk/>

LITURGY FOR THE COMING WEEK: We celebrate the Patroness of the month of October, Our Lady of the Rosary, this coming Wednesday, 7th. By providential coincidence, it is the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Margaret and Donald MacMillan, who will no doubt benefit richly from Our Lady's prayers on that day.

The saints we celebrate this week are: St. Faustina Kowalka, to whom Jesus revealed the Divine Mercy devotion; St. Bruno, founder of the contemplative Carthusian order; and St. John Henry Newman, brilliant theologian and teacher of the faith.

The readings for Mass on Thursday, 8th October, make reference to the person of the Holy Spirit, so we will offer a Votive Mass in his honour.

Try to do something little in your day which reflects the celebration on the liturgical calendar. It will help a little to redeem your time and activity for God.

GALLOWAY VOCATIONS: Please 'Like' the new Facebook page called "Galloway Vocations" to encourage our Diocesan family to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life: <https://www.facebook.com/GallowayVocations/>

CENTENARY MASS (4TH OCTOBER): This year Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is celebrating 100 years of its support to seafarers, fishers,

and their families. To mark the beginning of the centenary year they will be holding a live-streamed Mass celebrated by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia of Glasgow. The Mass is this Sunday 4th October at 3pm: www.stellamaris.org.uk/centenarymass

MRS. CELIA LEWIS: Celia is retiring from her teaching post at St. Mary's Primary School in Largs after many years of dedicated, generous and professional service to the children, their families, her colleagues and the wider community. We will mark her retirement in a special way at Mass this coming Friday, 9th October.

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

FLOWERS: If anyone wishes to donate for the altar flowers, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Flower Fund" and place it in the collection basket as you enter the church.

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

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

BULLETIN: Requests for notices to be included in the weekly bulletin must be submitted by 12 Noon on **Wednesdays**.

SPECIAL COLLECTION, HOLY PLACES: An important casualty of the lockdown has been the Good Friday collection for the Holy Places. Funds are needed to maintain the communities, churches and other buildings associated with Jesus while on this earth. Many of them are located in Palestinian territory where the economy is in dire straits. There will therefore be a retiring collection for the Holy Places in both parishes across the three Sundays of 11th, 18th & 25th October. Gift Aid envelopes are not possible for this collection because it is an international charity and not a diocesan one, or a Scottish one.

ONLINE CHARITY FUNDRAISING: Bishop Nolan has asked his priests to propose to parishioners the use of two online fundraising portals which would allow them to donate directly to the Diocese of Galloway with no further cost to themselves. One is **Amazon Smile** and the other is **Give as You Live**. More information can be found on the parish website. Here are the links to the two portals mentioned. If you are prompted for the Charity Number of the Diocese it is: SC010576 (the digit after C is the number zero, not the letter "O"): <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC010576> and <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/rc-diocese-of-galloway-scotland>

RIGHTS OF THE LAITY IN THE CHURCH

Introduction

After a number of weeks of looking briefly at the Bible, I thought I would vary the subject matter a little by looking at the Church's law. It's important for our Catholic culture to have some basic idea, too, of the law of the Church, also known as Canon Law. The main body of the law is contained in a book called the "Code of Canon Law." The word "canon" in this context has nothing to do with the title given to some priests. Rather, it means literally a "measure." So, canon law means all the measures of law which govern the rights and duties between members of the Church, lay, clerical and religious. Each norm in Canon Law is called a canon and is given a number, e.g. canon 100, canon 345, etc..

Any social group needs its rules, otherwise it will collapse. You can see in the Acts of the Apostles the beginnings of Church law (e.g. what Jewish observances the pagan converts to Christianity had to observe). Since every person, and every group, has rights and also duties, these need to be regulated to avoid the *violation* of rights and the *neglect* of duties. *My* right is *your* duty, but equally *your* right is *my* duty. So, the balance between these two needs to be regulated if chaos is to be avoided.

Over the centuries, then, the Church has developed its own legal or juridical system (juridical just means "to do with rights"). Some laws are more important than others (e.g. divine law is greater than human law), some endure while others disappear (e.g. the Ten Commandments will last until the end of time; laws about the arrangement of parishes in the 6th century no longer exist!).

To "whet your appetite", I thought I'd take a look at what the Code of Canon Law says about **the rights of the laity** in the Church. Another time we can look at what it says about their duties or obligations.

Fundamental Rights of the Laity in Canon Law: Rights in common with all baptised members of the Church, including religious, priests, etc.

1] *Equality*. Canon 208 tells us that: "From their rebirth in Christ, there exists among all the Christian faithful a true equality regarding dignity and action by which they all cooperate in the building up of the Body of Christ according to each one's own condition and function."

So, the source of equality in the Church is baptism, "rebirth in Christ." This is important. Equality among us is not something established by us, nor is it granted by a decree of the Pope, but only by God. It is a God-given equality. You will notice that canon 208 says a "true" equality. True means genuine, objective. It is a given

that cannot be taken away except by God. It is vital that no-one in the Church should consider him or herself, or be allowed or told to consider him or herself, as inferior to *any other* member of the Church. That would be a major affront to their Christian dignity and a sin.

Canon 208 takes it further. This true equality regards "dignity and action" in the Church. We enjoy a dignity already by virtue of being human, created in the image and likeness of God. By sin, we lost the likeness but not the image. By baptism, the likeness is restored. Baptism therefore enhances, elevates our human dignity. It doesn't make us better than any other human being, but by God's gift it ennobles our human dignity because it is now the temple of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

True equality also regards action in the Church. This does not mean that we are all the same. Equality does not mean sameness. We are all different as individual people, yet we are equal in our baptised dignity. Likewise, we do not all do the same actions but have different vocations with their corresponding tasks and their inherent rights and duties. Action in the Church is rooted in our equal dignity and in our different vocations, and even in the different ways each vocation can be lived out. For example, not every priest is a diocesan priest who works in a parish. There are others who teach or are involved in medicine or diplomacy. Not every lay person is married or a missionary abroad.

Action in the Church is, as canon 208 puts it, to "cooperate in the building up of the Body of Christ *according to* each one's own condition and function." A bit like a team, action in the Church is coordinated and complementary so that each member pulls their weight in accordance with their lay, religious, priestly, etc., role.

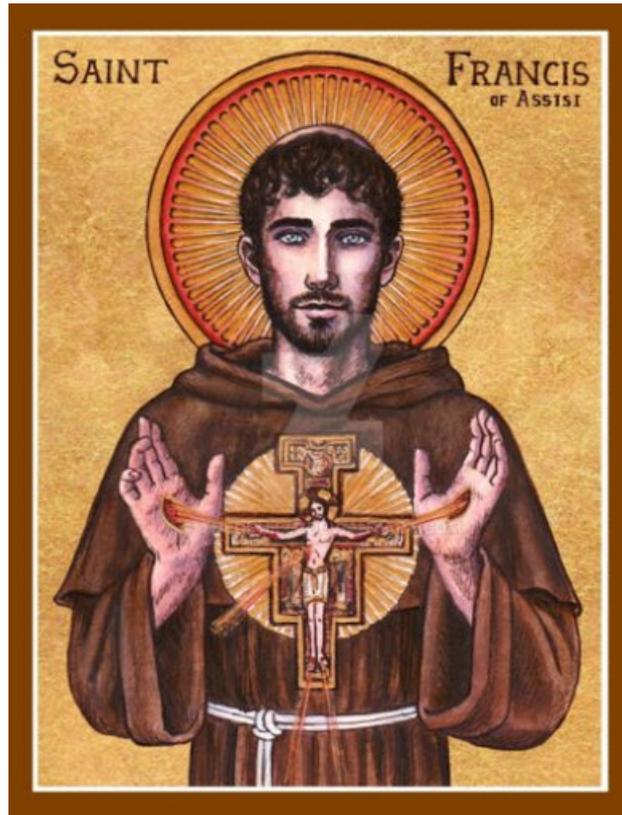
So, equality in dignity and action does not mean that each baptised member of the Church can do, or can claim the right, to do what every other member is doing. That would be to confuse vocations and roles. Instead of cooperating to build up the Body of Christ, it would tear it apart. Instead, each part of the Body has its own role.

Historically, there have been abuses whereby priests have "lorded it over" their people when the very meaning of their vocation is to serve them! At other times there have been priests and bishops who have tried to be politicians, which is really the role of the laity. There have also been instances of lay people attributing to themselves the power to consecrate bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

These and many other errors mean that those involved have misunderstood the meaning of "true equality regarding dignity and action." Equality does not confer the right to do everything, but rather guarantees that the rights proper to each vocation have equal dignity.

Fr. Peter

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Hello, children! This Sunday is 4th October and on this day we remember a man called Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). This picture tells us a great deal about him.

First of all, he is a saint! A saint is someone who has loved God and neighbour during his/her life to a super-fantastic degree. It means that when they die they go straight to heaven. The disc around St. Francis' head is an artistic symbol saying he is a saint, as if his head and face glowed with God's love.

St. Francis was from Assisi, a very ancient town in central Italy. He was born into a rich family there, but gave it all up to be poor and humble like Jesus. The brown clothes he is wearing are like a piece of sack cloth to show how he wanted to live in poverty.

In the middle of the picture you can see a disc which represents the sun. St. Francis had an incredible love, not only for God and

people, but also for the whole of creation. He wrote a beautiful song called the Canticle of the Sun, praising and thanking God for all the beautiful things in creation.

But St. Francis was also very close to the crucified Jesus. He wanted to live, love and suffer like Jesus. One day he was praying in a church near Assisi in front of a Cross like the one in the picture. He heard Jesus speak to him and say, "Go and rebuild my Church." The Church Jesus meant wasn't a building but the Church which is God's people throughout the world. We are the Church!

Another time when he prayed, he had a vision of Jesus on the Cross and all of a sudden his hands, feet and side started to show the same wounds that Jesus had on the Cross. That's why you see blood coming from his hands in the picture. Francis died aged 44, singing a psalm as he went to God.