

# THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY SUNDAY (A), 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

## SAINT MARY, STAR OF THE SEA

28 Greenock Road, Largs, KA30 8NE

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee

PP's email: [peter.magee@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:peter.magee@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

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, James McGinty, Eddie McCarthy, Joseph Donnelly, Alistair Murphy, Isabella McNally, Benet Brodie Snr, John Gunn, Eithne Brown, Mary Lyden, Murdoch MacDougall, Ylena Green, Peter Grant, Kenneth Reader, Toni Caughey, Richard Dawson, Susan Rose, Slawek Gawlik, Graham Johnston. **Recently Deceased:** Margery Lewis, John Hutchison, Theresa Loudon, Sylwia Mills. **Anniversary of Death:** Mary Delaney, John Paul McKay.

### NOTICES

### 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
<b>16/11: Feast of Saint Margaret of Scotland (d. 1093)</b>	Proper Liturgical colour: white
17/11: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious (d. 1231)	Week 33, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
18/11: Dedication of the Basilicas of SS. Peter & Paul	Week 33, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
19/11: Holy Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy	Week 33, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: blue
20/11: For Deceased Parents	Week 33, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: purple
21/11: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Week 33, Ordinary Time Liturgical colour: white
<b>22/11: Solemnity of Christ the King</b>	Proper Liturgical colour: white

### MASS INTENTIONS

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 14 Nov, 6pm	November Lists
Sun 15 Nov, 10am	All Parishioners
Sun 15 Nov, 12.15pm	November Lists
Mon 16 Nov, 10am	November Lists
Tues 17 Nov, 10am	November Lists
Wed 18 Nov 10am	November Lists
Thurs 19 Nov, 10am	November Lists
Fri 20 Nov, 10am	November Lists
Sat 21 Nov, 6pm	November Lists
Sun 22 Nov, 10am	All Parishioners
Sun 22 Nov, 12.15pm	November Lists

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

### ANNUAL MASS FOR DECEASED PARISHIONERS

**OF BOTH PARISHES:** On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 10am we will go ahead with the normal annual Mass at which we remember and pray especially for those parishioners who have died during the past year (December 2019 to November 2020 inclusive). Participation at this Mass is by invitation only, due to the Covid restrictions (but it will be live-streamed), and it is for two people from the immediate family of each deceased parishioner. Invitations have already been sent out. If you believe that you should have received an invitation and have not done so, please contact the parish Secretary by no later than Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**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.

**LITURGY FOR THE COMING WEEK:** We celebrate Saint Margaret of Scotland this coming Monday, a chance for us to pray for our country and for the work and mission of the Church here. Tuesday brings into view an extraordinary woman, Elizabeth of Hungary, a wife, mother, widow, religious and carer of the poor. On Wednesday, the princes of the Apostles are celebrated via the commemoration of the dedication of their basilicas in Rome (the Vatican and St. Paul's Outside the Walls). On Thursday, we commend the faithful departed to Mary as Mother of Mercy. On Friday, I will offer Mass with a special consideration for our deceased parents.

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

**THURSDAY AGAPE, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30-8pm:** Let your Thursday evening be consciously interrupted to spend a few moments or more in loving conversation with the Lord (via live-stream), telling him simply and openly that you do love Him with "agape love." Let's do it as a believing and loving community to create a *great wave of agape* across our parishes to reach and console the

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lonely, the sick, the worried and maybe even the hearts of those thus far closed to the Lord. You can still participate spiritually, if you don't have live-stream, but doing so would be better: **1)** 6.30-6.45: Silent worship; **2)** 6.45-7.00: Evening Prayer (the appropriate leaflet is provided on the parish website); **3)** 7.00-7.30: Silent worship or personal reflection on brief sections of Scripture (I will provide a few texts); **4)** 7.30: the Rosary; **5)** 8pm, simple blessing with the Blessed Sacrament.

**WORLD DAY OF THE POOR:** This Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, is the 4<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Poor, established by Pope Francis in 2017. I have provided a link to the Pope's Message for this Day on the parish website.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY:** From 22-29 November, we are celebrating Catholic Education Week, when we celebrate the importance of educating children and young people in faith. This year's theme is: "Jesus Christ: the Way, the Truth and the Life." There will be a Mass for St. Mary's Primary School live-streamed on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. A special collection for Catholic Education will be taken up at all Masses on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like further information on becoming a teacher in our Catholic schools, please contact the Scottish Catholic Education Service: mail@sces.uk.com

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

**NOVEMBER LISTS:** Lists may be submitted until the end of the month.

**PRAYERLINE:** For prayers, phone: 078037 48251.

**DOMESTIC ABUSE:** The Scottish Interfaith Group on Domestic Abuse will host a Webinar on the International Day for the elimination of Violence against Woman on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. Among other things, it will be shown how Covid-19 has impacted on domestic abuse. To register and receive the Zoom code, go to: <http://ifgoda.org.uk>

**CHANA & CHRISTMAS:** At Christmas time, CHANA (Churches Homelessness Action North Ayrshire) usually coordinates donations of gifts to help the most vulnerable in communities across North Ayrshire. Covid restrictions mean a different tack is required this year and CHANA has teamed up with the Ayrshire based charity Night Before Christmas. CHANA is asking people to support Night Before Christmas by donating to the Just Giving page which is already up and running (<https://www.justgiving.com/nb4cc>) or people could put cash in an envelope marked CHANA and put it in the collection. Presents for those in need will be bought and distributed by Night Before Christmas. CHANA itself has donated £400.

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

**SVPD 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 by 12 Noon on Wednesdays.

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** *This Sunday* is the last chance to contribute to the retiral collection for Missio Scotland. If you prefer, you can donate £3 by texting MISSIOSCOT on 70085. *Next Sunday*, 22<sup>nd</sup>, the retiral collection will be for Catholic Education in Scotland.

### OCTOBER INCOME

Description	Largs	Millport
Regular Collection	£1,133.00	£242.58
Bank Income	£2,686.00	£100.00
Building Fund	---	£242.58
Donation	---	£600.00
Flowers	£225.00	---
SCIAF boxes	£53.58	---
Retired Priests	£90.00	£177.20
Holy Places	£700.10	£232.50

### RIGHTS OF THE LAITY IN THE CHURCH (VI)

Moving ahead with our consideration of the rights which the laity hold in common with everyone else in the Church, the Code of Canon Law next refers to:

8] The *right of association* for purposes in keeping with the mission of the Church. Canon 215 reads: "The Christian faithful are at liberty freely to found and direct associations for purposes of charity or piety or for the promotion of the Christian vocation in the world and to hold meetings for the common pursuit of these purposes." The *right to meet* is also included here.

In law, a "meeting" is the coming together of two or more people in the same place for a specific purpose, but without any obligation of association arising from that. An "association" is a stable union of at least three people to pursue specific aims for the good of its members or other people. The idea is also that those aims are better pursued together than alone.

It bears underlining that the principal vocation and mission of the *laity* is, precisely, a *lay* one: it is to bring the light and leaven of the Gospel *into secular life*. It is for this reason that canon 215, with special application to the laity, refers to the right of association in terms of "promoting the Christian vocation *in the world*."

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It is true that the norm refers to associations of piety, hence of prayer and of other practices of a more spiritual nature. However, the purpose of these is to serve and strengthen and to spur the laity on in their witness to the Gospel *in the midst of their activities in the world*.

This will also have its charitable dimension in terms of the more easily recognised charitable works (outreach to the poor, the bereaved, the sick, etc.). But the laity's proper mission is not exhausted in piety and charity. Rather, it is also to bring the beneficent influence of the Gospel and teaching of the Church to bear on *every dimension of social life*, including politics, government, the judiciary, local government, trade unions, the media, sport, entertainment, etc.. One obvious example of this is Catholic education, in which lay members of the Church improve the overall performance and purpose of education by rooting it in, and directing it towards, Christ and the life of the Church. Catholic schools are not primarily successful because of human effort, but because the school is infused with the Spirit of Christ.

There have been in the past, and are still active in the present, in different parts of the world, associations of Catholic laws, judges, doctors and politicians. Any profession (that is not illegal or immoral) can be evangelized and thus enhanced by the life of the Catholic faith. The whole purpose of the Church is to be at the service of the world through her members, especially her lay members. It would be manifestly wrong, and perverse even, to “enclose” the vitality of the laity within the confines of the Church. The sacraments of faith are intended to be the leaven in the dough of Catholic life and, through the witness and work of committed Catholics, also to be the leaven in society.

This is why, when considering the role of the laity in the Church, we undermine the laity's true vocation and mission by trying to “clericalise” it, as if the lay person would be more truly lay by doing the things which clerics do. On the contrary, the priesthood of the ordained ministers of the Church (bishop, priest and deacon) *is at the service of*, is ordained to, the royal priesthood of the laity *so that* they can fulfil their mission “ad extra” to the world and let the power of grace and the Gospel inspire and inform their witness.

Canon 215 not only recognises this but *legislates* so that the right of the faithful, a right rooted in their lay sacramental identity, may be given free exercise to pursue it. It is interesting to note that the canon speaks of the “liberty freely to ...”, as if to emphasise that this right is not an obligation. No-one *has to* found an association for charity or piety, but you can do so. On the other hand, there is an obligation on the part of everyone in the Church to recognise that liberty and therefore not to impede its legitimate exercise. An example of an illegitimate exercise of the freedom to found and direct an association would be “Catholics for

a Free Choice”, in the United States of America, which associates Catholics in favour of abortion. It is illegitimate and an abuse of this freedom because it contradicts the witness which Catholics are called to give in the world on this matter.

This right encompasses both the *founding* and *directing* of associations. To found means to establish or set up. When we speak of a “founder” we generally think of someone with a particular inspiration or charism who identifies a need and has some intuition or understanding as to how it can be met. It may start off as a solitary initiative but gain ground and credibility with others and so lead to an association. Founding something will also imply some basic statement of intent and mission and some elementary idea of the practicalities required to implement it. The founder will have some vision, however imprecise or precise, and be able to articulate it in deeds and/or words for others.

The law also says that the lay faithful can freely direct the association which they found. There can be no “muscling in” by the ordained hierarchy in terms of the actual running of the association. At the same time, it is the role of the hierarchy to ensure that an association is in keeping with the promotion of the vocation of the lay faithful in the world. Normally speaking, the founder and director of such associations would seek the views of, say, the local priest or bishop. The purpose of these associations is not to form an alternative church, but to work in an autonomous way within the organic structure of the Church. Otherwise, it would by definition be illegitimate, since it would be acting against the mission of the Church.

Finally, the law refers to the right to hold meetings to pursue the goals of the association. Although related, the right to meet and the right to associate are distinct.

The forms of associations of the laity can include life in common. Almost any variation or permutation is possible, provided it is within the law. It will be the founding agreement which establishes the nature of the association and the way it is to be directed by the laity themselves.

An obvious limit on the aims of such associations is when they seek to participate in the mission proper to the ordained ministry. This would be the case, for example, in terms of promoting public worship or of the transmission of Catholic doctrine in the name of the Church. Such cases require a different kind of canonical status called “*public associations of the faithful*” and can only be established or approved by the Church's hierarchy. Both this limit and the requirement that lay faithful associations work in cooperation with the wider structures of the Church come from the fundamental reality of sacramental communion in the Church, rooted in the sacrament of Baptism.

*Fr. Peter*

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CHILDREN'S CORNER



Today, Jesus tells us the story, or the parable, of the talents. The word talent here doesn't mean something like being a good singer or a top footballer! At the time of Jesus, a talent was a weight of either gold or silver. A silver talent, then, would be worth about £1,500!

So, three different people get three different amounts of talents from their master. Their job was to make more money with them. One gets ten, one gets five and one gets one. Why the difference? Because the master knew that they didn't all have the same skill, so he was being kind to them.

After some time, the master calls them in to tell him how much more money they'd made with their talents. The one with ten and the one with five had doubled their money. The master was very pleased. But the person who only got one talent buried it in a hole and gave it back, without any profit!

You can see from the picture, that the master wasn't very happy with this lazy man. He hadn't even thought of putting it in the bank to make interest! Silly Billy!

With this story, Jesus is telling us that he expects us to use the gifts he has given us. He had expected that man with only one talent at least to do something useful with it! Not stick it in a hole!

EVERY CHILD has at LEAST one talent. You might look at other children and think they're better than you. That's always the wrong thing to think. It's not about who's better than who. No, it's about doing the best with what YOU have, no matter what that may be.

You see, if you do the best you can, even with a little, it will grow. Then, if you do your best with what has grown, it will grow more ... and more .... and more! How pleased that will make Jesus and how good you will feel!