

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B), 29th NOVEMBER 2020

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 Email: largs@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

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Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee

PP's email: peter.magee@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

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, Mary Boyce. **Recently Deceased:** Sheila McDonald, Frank Britton, Michael Conway. **Anniversary of Death:** Win Colclough, Daniel Wright, Annie Theresa McCormick, William O'Donnell.

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
30/11: Solemnity of St. Andrew, Apostle	Proper Liturgical colour: red
1/12: Ferial	Advent, Week 1 Liturgical colour: purple
2/12: Ferial	Advent, Week 1 Liturgical colour: purple
3/12: St. Francis Xavier, Priest (d.1552)	Advent, Week 1 Liturgical colour: white
4/12: Ferial	Advent, Week 1 Liturgical colour: purple
5/12: Ferial	Advent, Week 1 Liturgical colour: purple
6/12: Second Sunday of Advent	Proper Liturgical colour: purple

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 28 Nov, 6pm	November Lists
Sun 29 Nov, 10am	All Parishioners
Sun 29 Nov, 12.15pm	November Lists
Mon 30 Nov, 10am	November Lists
Tues 1 Dec, 10am	Mary Boyce, S
Wed 2 Dec, 10am	Special Intention
Thurs 3 Dec, 10am	Margaret Strong, RD
Fri 4 Dec, 10am	Dina Conetta, RD
Sat 5 Dec, 6pm	Anne Kane, SI
Sun 6 Dec, 10am	All Parishioners
Sun 6 Dec, 12.15pm	Michael Conway, RD

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 MacDougall, Bruce MacDougall, 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,

MISS SHEILA McDONALD, RIP (Largs): I regret to announce the passing of Sheila McDonald to the Father's house on Wednesday 18th November in Glasgow. May the Lord receive her into his glory. Our condolences go to Sheila's niece, Sheila Hannay, and to her extended family. Miss McDonald was well known in Largs for her voluntary work. She had lately retired to a Care Home in Glasgow. The Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday, 9th December, at 11am, and thereafter to the Clyde Crematorium.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: I intend to provide the following Liturgies over Christmas: 1) *Millport*. Christmas Eve, 4.30pm. 2) *Largs*. Christmas Eve, 7.30pm. Christmas Day: 10am & 12 Noon. Depending on various practical matters, another Mass *may* be added for Largs. Our Largs Covid Team is working very hard to plan things to enable the best outcome within the given restrictions. Further details will soon be forthcoming.

Current Covid restrictions for gatherings in churches must remain in place, until and unless the Government states otherwise which is, sadly, very unlikely. For both parish churches, therefore, there can be no more than 50 people at each Mass, masks must be worn, 2 metre social distancing observed and hand sanitisation done on entering and leaving the premises.

Priority must go to our own parishioners. If any places are left, they will be allotted on a first come first serve basis. I truly regret that we have to observe these measures, especially at Christmas, but we must at all costs avoid as much as possible the risk of infection, both out of respect for people's lives and to ensure that we don't get "closed down" again altogether.

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: Advent is a Penitential Season, like Lent, and hence the colour purple is worn during this season. The characteristic spiritual values of Advent are repentance, vigilance and joyful hope. Extra attentiveness to the presence of the Lord, so more prayer and less attention to our own

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human needs, also forms part of the fabric of a true Advent spirituality.

On Monday, we celebrate the Solemnity of Saint Andrew, the Apostle, the Patron Saint of Scotland. It is a public holiday, so I encourage everyone to join the live-streamed Mass at 10am which I will try to make as special as possible. Let's pray for our country!

On Thursday 3rd December we celebrate the lion-hearted Jesuit missionary, Francis Xavier. Why not make an effort that day to give conscious witness to Christ in something you say or do?

The ferial days of Advent invite us to deepen the values and virtues I mentioned above.

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

THURSDAY AGAPE, 3rd December, 6.30-8pm: Advent is an ideal occasion to get involved with our Thursday Agape.

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

PRAYERLINE: For prayers, phone: 078037 48251.

CHANA & 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. It would be good to have all donations by 7th December. Presents for those in need will be bought and distributed by Night Before Christmas. CHANA itself has donated £400. Many thanks to those who have donated to CHANA and to the Just Giving Page.

MARY'S MEALS: We are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide hope to 43,000 children in Bong County, Liberia. From 2nd November until 31st January 2021, any donations made to the *Double the Love* campaign will be matched by UK government, up to £2 million. Each little act of love will be doubled to support families in Liberia and the hope of a better future for their children. You can get involved by setting a place at our Big Family Christmas dinner table (<https://bigfamilychristmas.marysmeals.org.uk/big-family-christmas-table>) You can also buy our Christmas gift cards on our website. More information on how to support us can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS (Largs): Religious-themed Christmas Cards are available in the parish hall after both Masses this coming Sunday, 29-30 November, and next Sunday, 5-6 December. Strict Covid safety measures will be in place.

BOYS' BRIGADE CHRISTMAS POST (Largs): Cards for Largs addresses only can be placed in the designated box as you leave the church, along with a suggested donation of 25p. The box is available the weekend 29-30 Nov. & 5-6 Dec. Alternatively, there is a post-box in the entrance foyer of Morrison's.

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 by 12 Noon on Wednesdays.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: This weekend the retreat collection at all Masses will be for Peter's Pence.

AN ADVENT INVITATION

Watch less TV, ipad, iphone, etc.. Use the time to seek silence around and within. Seek the Lord in that silence and you will also find your true self.

Work on one sinful or bad habit you have. Consider the damage it does. Ask the Spirit to help you perceive just how bad it is for you. Ask his strength. Let it go.

Use the freedom you recover to love. Forgive someone you have been resisting forgiving. Don't confuse forgiving with nice feelings. *Choose* to forgive. Feelings are secondary to that choice. *Feelings are given to serve our good choices, not to dictate them! To forgive when you don't feel like it is real virtue.*

Make a real effort to get to know Jesus more closely. Ask Him to come closer and to make you know He hears you. Ask Him very simply, "Jesus, show me your love for me." Stick with it. Wait on Him. Give Him a chance.

At some point before Christmas, take one hour and dedicate it exclusively to Jesus. Turn off the phones and gadgets. Go to your room, close the door. Don't answer the door bell. Focus all your time, attention, mind and heart on Him. Why not try writing down for Him how your life is going, how you really feel about yourself, your relationships, your family, your work? It can be a very helpful exercise! Just then leave what you have written sitting there in front of Him. Ask Him to read it, to read you. Listen for Him, block out thoughts and distractions. Be open to his Presence to you, near you, in you. Stay still with Him. Just wait. See how He will come to you.

Fr. Peter