

3rd SUNDAY (B), SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD, 24th JANUARY 2021
SAINT MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
 28 Greenock Road, Largs, KA30 8NE
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR
 College Street, Millport, KA28 0BG

Tel: 01475 740019.

Website: [rclargsandmillport.com](http://www.rclargsandmillport.com)

YouTube:

<https://www.rclargsandmillport.com/livestream>

Parish Email: largs@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

SC010576

Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee

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

Holy Mass

Largs: Saturday Vigil, 6pm; Sunday, 10am; Mon-Fri, 10am. All Masses live-streamed, **without a congregation present due to Covid restrictions.**

WEEKLY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

COMMEMORATION	READINGS
25/1: Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul	Proper Liturgical colour: white
26/1: SS. Timothy & Titus, Bishops	Week 3 Liturgical colour: white
27/1: Our Lady, Mother & Teacher in the Spirit	Week 3 Liturgical colour: blue
28/1: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor (d. 1274)	Week 3 Liturgical colour: white
29/1: Votive Mass of the Precious Blood	Week 3 Liturgical colour: red
30/1: Our Lady on Saturday	Week 3 Liturgical colour: blue
31/1: 4th Ordinary Sunday, Year B.	Proper Liturgical colour: green

MASS INTENTIONS

DATE & TIME	INTENTION
Sat 23 Jan, 6pm	Edmund Duffy, D
Sun 24 Jan, 10am	All Parishioners
Mon 25 Jan, 10am	Archbishop Philip Tartaglia
Tues 26 Jan, 10am	Nan Smith, D
Wed 27 Jan, 10am	Loredana Fontana, RD
Thurs 28 Jan, 10am	Kenneth McComish, D
Fri 29 Jan, 10am	Kathleen McCarthy, D
Sat 30 Jan, 6pm	Phil Mitchell, D
Sun 31 Jan, 10am	All Parishioners

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, James McGinty, Eddie McCarthy, Joseph Donnelly, Alistair Murphy, Isabella McInally, 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, Debbie Wallace, Mrs. Elizabeth Mackie, Malcolm Heaton, Hugh Millar. **Recently Deceased:** Bishop Vincent Logan, Loredana Fontana. **Anniversary of Death:** Jack Keane, Patrick Joseph Ward, James Murphy, Agnes O'Donnell. **Special Birthdays or Anniversaries:**

NOTICES

MRS. LOREDANA FONTANA, RIP (Largs): Our deepest sympathies go to the family of the late Loredana Fontana who died on 18th January, aged 85. May she know the merciful embrace of Christ in his Kingdom. There will be no Requiem Mass for Mrs. Fontana. A funeral service will take place at the Clyde Crematorium on Wednesday 27th January at 11am, under strict covid restrictions.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: I encourage everyone to mark this Sunday in a special way at home, using either the resources on the parish website for this day or inventing something else which draws you that little bit closer individually or, better, with others to the Word of God.

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: The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity concludes with the Conversion of St. Paul this coming Monday. Two close collaborators of Paul, SS. Timothy and Titus, are remembered on Tuesday. The Mass of the Week for Our Lady is on Wednesday as Mother & Teacher in the Spirit. The formidable and saintly theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas is recalled on Thursday and, on Friday, we commemorate the Precious Blood of Christ. Try and colour your prayer and other actions of charity and penance each day of the week in line with whatever celebration we are having at Mass. Life and Worship should form one heart and soul.

SERVICE OF THE WORD: The theme this Sunday evening is "The Word of God in Saint John, the Beloved Disciple."

THURSDAY AGAPE: Please deliberately interrupt your Thursday evening (28th) to join the live-stream Agape for even a few minutes between 6.30-8pm, for no other reason than to tell the Lord you love him in the spiritual company of all other parishioners doing the same. Details of the breakdown of the 90-minute Agape are on the home page of the parish website.

PARISHES' ROSARY INTENTION: For a swift end to the covid-19 pandemic and a swift distribution of the vaccine to everyone, beginning with the most vulnerable.

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SAFEGUARDING AUDITS: This past Tuesday, 19th January, I completed and submitted to the Diocese the annual Safeguarding Audits for both parishes. In view of the pandemic, no parish will have had much to report either by way of incidents raised or by way of training. For your information, there was a diocesan-wide training day for priests on 22nd October 2020, via zoom, which I attended. The theme was “responding to trauma.” I want to thank publicly our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator (PSC) in Largs, Mr. Gordon Sutherland, for his input over the past year and for helping me prepare the audit for Largs. Mr. Donnie McGilveray in Millport must also be thanked for the great work he did while still PSC there. He has no resigned from that role and a replacement has not yet been named. It is my intention, once the pandemic is over, or at least under control, to establish Parish Safeguarding Teams in both parishes. The advantage to this is not just one of sharing the workload, but also of having different viewpoints and ideas as we move ahead.

URGENT - ACT NOW to stop ‘DIY’ abortion services being made permanent in Scotland. The Scottish Government is currently deciding on whether to make the temporary measure allowing ‘DIY’ home abortions in Scotland permanent. Since home abortions were temporarily allowed, a number of significant problems have put the lives and health of many women in danger. It is vital that as many people as possible contact their MSPs to ask them to write to the First Minister and other relevant ministers laying out the serious dangers with ‘DIY’ home abortions, and ask them to ensure that the temporary order allowing ‘DIY’ home abortion is revoked as soon as possible and not made permanent. Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MSPs in less than one minute. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link below: www.righttolife.org.uk/notodiyabortion

ST. MARGARET’S ADOPTION SOCIETY: I have sent £1,000 to the Society, asking that it be considered a joint donation from our two parishes and that it be earmarked for the specialised training of a staff member to assist adoptive families.

PRAYERLINE: For prayers, phone: 078037 48251.

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.

DECEMBER 2020 INCOME

Description	Largs	Millport
<i>Regular collection</i>	£2,195.70	£175.50
<i>St. Margaret’s Adoption</i>	£713.60	£286.40
<i>Flowers cash</i>	£335	---
<i>Mary’s meals</i>	£10	---
<i>Peter’s Pence</i>	£10	---
<i>Building Fund</i>	---	£175.50
<i>Bank reg. income</i>	£2,730	£80
<i>Bank, flowers</i>	£50	

LET YOUR WORD HAPPEN TO ME

So many words we hear are meaningless, they “go in one ear and out the other.” Yet, we all have the experience of how even one word, spoken at a particular moment and even in a particular way by a particular person, can strike deeply into our heart. It can change us, for good or for ill.

In the letter to the Hebrews, we read that “the word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts” (Heb. 4:12-13).

If that is how the Word of God is, then we have to wonder why at times we do not experience it that way. Our hearts can be cold, hard, impenetrable, something which the Lord complains and laments about throughout the Bible.

The chief example of a heart that is not only reached but also formed and transformed by the Word of God is the Virgin Mary. “Let it be done to me according to your word.” Notice how she does not say, “I will do your word” but “let it *be done* to me.” It is not she, but the Word itself which will act in her. She sees the Word as an active agent and herself as “putty” in its hands. She is ready for anything that it makes happen to her and in her.

If we were looking for a motto for the Sunday of the Word, and indeed a motto for our own relationship with the Word of God, Mary’s “let your word happen to me” would top my list. She took it in and pondered it in her heart, as St. Luke repeatedly tells us. It led her to the danger of possibly being stoned, it led her to many other dangers and joys and comforts. It led her to a singular compassion for her Son and for us, her children. It led her to Calvary, the Upper Room and eventually to the throne of God. Mary became *who* the Word destined her to be.

I invite you to let Mary be your Teacher and Guide as you enter more deeply into the Word, and as you let it enter more deeply into you and form you into the person whom God destines you to be.