**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*

YouTube: [https://www.rclargsandmillport.com/livestream](file:///Users/stmarys/Documents/LM-Bulletins/https%3A/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** (*all Masses live-streamed)*

*Largs:* Saturday Vigil, 6pm; Sunday, 10am. Weekday Mass, 10am. Mon-Fri, except 2nd Thursdays. *Millport:* Sunday, 12.15pm; 2nd Thursdays, 10am.

**Reconciliation or Confession**

*Largs*: Saturdays, 5-5.45pm; Mondays, after 10am Mass. *Millport*: After 10am Mass every 2nd Thursday.

**WEEKLY LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

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| **COMMEMORATION** | **READINGS** |
| 28/2: Mass for the Synod. *For the grace of hope during trials.* | Ord. Week 8Liturgical colour: green |
| 1/3: Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit. *For the grace of a fruitful Lent.* | Ord. Week 8Liturgical colour: red |
| **2/3: Ash Wednesday.** *For the grace of true conversion.* | LentLiturgical colour: purple |
| 3/3: Lenten Feria. *For the grace to choose life by choosing God.*  | LentLiturgical colour: purple |
| 4/3: Lenten Feria. First Friday. *For the grace to fast from sin and feast on love.* | LentLiturgical colour: purple |
| *5/3: Lenten Feria.* | *---* |
| **6/3: 1st Sunday of Lent.** *For the grace to ponder the Creed.* | ProperLiturgical colour: purple |

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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| --- | --- |
| **DATE & TIME** | **INTENTION** |
| Sat 26/2, 6pm | Edward McMillan, D |
| Sun 27/2, 10am | All Parishioners |
| Sun 27/2, 12.15pm | Tom Lee, D |
| Mon 28/2, 10am | Theresa Temple, D |
| Tues 1/3, 10am | John Boyle, D |
| Wed 2/3, 10am | Anthony Maguire, D |
| Thurs 3/3, 10am  | Mary Chalmers, S |
| Fri 4/3, 10am | Brian Monaghan, D |
| Sat 5/3, 6pm | Bridget Gallagher, D |
| Sun 6/3, 10am | All Parishioners |
| Sun 6/3, 12.15pm | Joseph & Ellen McGonigle, D |

*A = Anniversary of Death; RD = Recently Deceased; D = Deceased; S = Sick; SI = Special Intention; RIP = Requiem Mass*

**Sick:** Margaret Gallagher, Lidia Tracey, Helen McShane, Peter Leitch, Colette McCafferty, Sarah McDougall, Bruce McDougall, Jessie Clements, Baby Ava May Cleary, Teresa Black, Peter McConville, Claire McConville, Lizzie Park, Ness Cranston, Francis Livingstone, Lorraine McBride, Margaret Rutherford, Martin Doherty, Ben Brownlie, Sheena Lane, Roddy Galbraith, Donal Hughes, Jonny Bilchak, James Reddoch, May Holland, Richard Dorman, Eileen Walker, Cynthia McGinty, Joseph Donnelly, Alistair Murphy, Isabella McInally, Eithne Brown, Mary Lyden, Murdoch MacDougall, Ylena Green, Peter Grant, Kenneth Reader, Toni Caughey, Mary Boyce, Debbie Wallace, Hugh Millar, Anton McCann, Rena Lee, Brian Gilligan, Mima McLaren, Mary Chalmers, Baby Michael Allison, Stephanie Fisher, Liam McDermott, Mari Richards, Jean Gregan, Frank McCarthy, Baby Ethan Ferguson, Harry Sammons, Henry McMonagle, Kenneth Manners, Joseph Bennett, Joyce Clark. **Recently Deceased**: Flora Currie. **Anniversary of Death**: Desmond Black, Eddie McCarthy, Gino Capocchi, Domenico Fontana.

**NOTICES**

RESTORATION OF OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS: The Bishops of Scotland are restoring this religious, moral and canonical obligation as of the First Sunday of Lent, 5/6 March. Please look on it as an expression of eternal love for the Lord and for his Bride, the Church.

ASH WEDNESDAY: 2nd March, 2022. Masses in St. Mary’s, Largs, at 10am (with primary school children in attendance) and 7pm. Mass in Millport at 12.15pm. Please note that, by direction from the Bishops, ashes will not be distributed this year in the usual way, on the forehead, but will be sprinkled on the head/hair of the person as is common practice in most European countries (and as was practiced in biblical times). It is therefore necessary that head coverings be removed and that you bow your head slightly as the priest sprinkles the ashes on your head.

FIRST RECONCILIATION (St. Mary’s): The children of Primary 3 at St. Mary’s Primary School will now be making their First Reconciliation at 11am on Tuesday 26th April in the school. Please pray for them that the grace of this wonderful sacrament will always attract their hearts and be a leaven of reconciliation in their families, school and parish.

BAPTISM OF CIARAN CHRISTIE (St. Mary’s): With great joy, I announce the baptism of Ciaran, foster son of Gordon and Angela Sutherland, this Saturday, 26th February, at 12 Noon.

BAPTISM OF FINN SCALLY (Our Lady of Perpetual Succour’s): I am also delighted to announce the Baptism this Sunday, 27th February, during the 12.15pm Mass in Millport, of Finn Scally, second son of Martin and Gillian Scally, and also great grandson of the late Maria Kelly, RIP.

LITURGY THIS WEEK: We will turn to the Holy Spirit on Monday to prepare us for the Synod Encounter on Sunday 6th March and, again, on Tuesday to inspire all of us to commit to a good and holy Lenten Season. Ash Wednesday commences our Lenten journey whilst Thursday and Friday accustom us to the mood and spirituality of this season of grace.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (St. Mary’s): I invite our parish groups to come forward and to offer to lead the Stations of the Cross at 7pm on Friday evenings during Lent. There are six slots available: 4, 11, 18, 25 March and 1 & 8 April. There are many forms in which the Stations can be prayed. I only ask that in planning them, you stay to 30-40 minutes maximum.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: On the first Friday of Lent, 4th March, at 2pm, both at St. Mary’s in Largs and at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour’s in Millport, the Catholic community this year will host the annual World Day of Prayer which is observed across the globe. This year’s theme is “I Know the Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29). The material has been prepared by Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. I encourage everyone to participate.

MILLPORT ROSARY GROUP: Thursdays at 2pm in the church. For more information, contact 01475 530 417.

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.

PRAYERLINE: Please ring 01475 673 682.

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

DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE (St. Mary’s): The annual recurrence of this important Day of Prayer will be celebrated at St. Mary’s on Tuesday 8th March at 3pm, with our eyes and hearts fixed firmly on the Cross and the hour of the death of Christ, the Supreme Victim of human sin. As Christ redeemed and healed humanity through his victimhood, we will beseech Him humbly yet urgently to grant deep healing, reconciliation and peace to all involved in the terrible scourge of abuse committed by men and women of the Church against the most vulnerable and innocent among us. Please make attendance at this Prayer Service a real priority and commitment of love and hope during the Holy Season of Lent.

SAFEGUARDING AUDITS FOR 2021: Parishioners of both parishes who wish may pick up a copy of my Report to our respective parishes on the 2021 Audit submitted to the Diocese at the end of this past January. A limited number of copies is available at the back of both churches. I have also uploaded both Reports to the parish website. Any constructive feedback is welcome.

TABLE OF FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date** | **Time & Place** |
| *Ash Wednesday* | 2 March | 10am, St. Mary’s12.15pm, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour’s7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Agape* | 3 March | 6.30-8pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Parish Finance Council* | 4 March | 11am, Largs Hall |
| *World Day of Prayer* | 4 March | 2pm, St. Mary’s2pm, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour  |
| *Stations of the Cross* | 4 March | 7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Synod Encounter* | 6 March | 2pm, Largs Hall |
| *Synod Encounter* | 6 March | 3pm, Millport |
| *Day of Prayer for* *Victims of Abuse* | 8 March | 3pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Fr. Peter on retreat* | 9-16 March | --- |
| *Sycamore* | 9 March | 7.30pm, Largs Hall |
| *Stations of the Cross* | 11 March | 7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Evening Devotions* | 13 March | 7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Sycamore* | 16 March | 7.30pm, Largs Hall |
| *Stations of the Cross* | 18 March | 7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Service of the Word* | 20 March | 7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Sycamore* | 23 March | 7.30pm, Largs Hall |
| *Stations of the Cross* | 25 March | 7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Parish Pastoral* *Council (virtual)* | 29 March | 7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Sycamore* | 30 March | 7.30pm, Largs Hall |
| *Stations of the Cross* | 1 April | 7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Penance Service* | 5 April | 2pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Sycamore* | 6 April | 7.30pm, Largs Hall |
| *Agape* | 7 April | 6.30-8pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Stations of the Cross* | 8 April | 7pm, St. Mary’s |
| *Palm Sunday* | 10 April | Sunday Mass schedule |
| *Evening Devotions* | 10 April | 7pm, St. Mary’s |

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

SYCAMORE (St. Mary’s): I encourage everyone to consider going along to the Sycamore evenings, even just once or twice during Lent. The dates are March 9th,16th, 23rd, 30th and April 6th. The time is from 7.30-9pm. For more information, contact Gordon McMillan on mobile 07977 403 462, or email gordonmcmillan7@gmail.com.

SYNOD ENCOUNTER (St. Mary’s): **Sunday, 6th March, from 2pm.** To register your participation, simply either put your name and contact number into the post box in the church porch, or email Fr. Peter at largs@gallowaydiocese.org.uk, or phone either 07398 109 094 *or* 07592 059 069, and leave a message with your name and contact number.

 Participants have to be registered so that, if more wish to participate than the hall can hold, a second synod session can be organized for another Sunday.

SYNOD ENCOUNTER (Millport): Helena Rameckers of the diocesan Synod Team, with logistical support from Linda Reynolds, will lead the Synod Encounter in Millport on **Sunday 6th March, from 3pm**. I encourage everyone to attend. It’s important, though, that you register to participate so as to facilitate the practical arrangements. Please write your name and contact number on a piece of paper and pop it in the box available at the back of the church. Alternatively, telephone Linda on 01475 530 417 or drop her an email at lindajanette72@gmail.com

SYNOD ECUMENICAL OUTREACH (St. Mary’s): We warmly welcome and thank Canon Sandy Montgomerie, of St. Columba’s Episcopal church, for coming to address our congregation both at the Vigil Mass and at the Sunday morning Mass this weekend. Let’s pray to the Holy Spirit for him and for and ourselves.

LENTEN RETREAT ONLINE: The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow is offering an online retreat based on the life of St. Ignatius. It can be followed individually or in a group. More details are available at the following link: <https://iscglasgow.co.uk/lent22.html>

LENTEN EXERCISE SUGGESTIONS

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Date* | *Pray* | *Abstain* | *Alms* |
| *Wed 2/3* | Eph 3:20-21 | Meat | Time |
| *Thur 3/3* | Mic 7:18-20 | Bread | Letter |
| *Fri 4/3* | Prov 3:1-12 | Meat | Rosary |
| *Sat 5/3* | 1 Pet 4:1-2 | Judging | Money |
| *Sun 6/3* | Rom 7:14-25 | Internet | Forgiveness |

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL (Largs): Meeting on 4th March at 11am, St. Mary’s Hall.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN FOR 2021 (St. Mary’s): A limited number of copies of a Summary of the Annual Financial Return for 2021, submitted to the Diocese at the end of January, is available in the church porch. The summary has also been uploaded onto the parish website. Any constructive feedback is welcome.

SCOTLAND’S CENSUS 2022: Message from the Catholic Scottish Parliamentary Office:

 “Later this month every household in the country will be contacted about Scotland’s Census.

 This is the once-a-decade count of the population of Scotland, collecting information about where you stay and the people who stay there, including which religion you belong to.

 The information you provide in the census, which may be completed online or by post, will help make decisions about how public money will be spent on schools, healthcare, roads and other important services in your local community. It is the go-to data source for social researchers in developing policy and is, therefore, very important.

 Parishioners should be encouraged to complete the census, providing accurate information about themselves and their households, including their religious affiliation. Parishioners should also be invited to encourage family and friends to complete the census.

 Some people might have difficulty either accessing or completing the census. Where possible, support should be offered to help these people to accurately complete the census. Parishes may wish to consider identifying parishioners who might be able to offer this support.

 The deadline for completion of the census is 20 March 2022, known as Census Day.

 You can find out more about the 2022 Census here: [Scotland's Census 2022](file:///Users/stmarys/Downloads/Scotland%27s%20Census%202022) | Scotland's Census ([scotlandscensus.gov.uk](http://scotlandscensus.gov.uk/))

 You can access resources to help publicise the Census here (includes accessible formats and translations e.g. Polish): [Stakeholder promotional materials](file:///Users/stmarys/Downloads/Stakeholder%20promotional%20materials) | Scotland's Census ([scotlandscensus.gov.uk](http://scotlandscensus.gov.uk/))”

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SANCTUARY (St. Mary’s): As mentioned at the end of the 10am Mass last Sunday, I *hope* to provide a “face-lift” for the sanctuary in the course of 2022. The purpose is to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary and so contribute to the worthier celebration of the Liturgy. The steps would include:

1. Removing the wooden screen at the back of the sanctuary so as to reclaim the space behind it and the light that would bring.

2. Relocating the items currently stored behind the screen to more suitable storage space.

3. Painting the sanctuary and laying a new carpet.

4. Elevating the crucifix 4/5 feet.

5. Installing a plinth roughly where the crucifix is at the moment. It would probably be of granite comparable to the altar, lectern and baptismal font.

6. Purchasing a new tabernacle to be placed on top of the plinth so that the Blessed Sacrament is once again the central focus of the sanctuary. The current tabernacle, which is the original one, is badly time-worn and fraying.

7. Improving the lighting in the sanctuary.

8. Restoring the side altar to Our Lady.

     In terms of costing, the proposal would be to pay for the removal of the wooden screen, the painting of the sanctuary, the improved lighting and the new carpet from parish funds. The cost would be roughly £20-£25k.

 The removal of the screen would constitute extraordinary expense, whilst the other tasks would be considered as ordinary maintenance expense.

 For the new plinth and tabernacle, given especially the significance of the tabernacle, I would like to ask any parishioner who wishes to donate to the cost. A worthy tabernacle of sufficient size and proportion for the sanctuary could cost anything from £2,000 to £5,000. The cost of a plinth is currently under investigation.

BULLETIN NOTICES: All notices should be submitted to the parish house by no later than **12 Noon on Wednesdays**.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS ST. PAUL VI**

**FOR LENT 1973**

Dear Sons and Daughters in Jesus Christ,

Lent is a time of self-denial and penance; but it is also a time of fellowship and solidarity. Need we say anything more to underline the importance of Lent? Let us listen to the exhortations uttered through the Prophet Isaiah and contained in the Liturgy of Lent: “This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: … sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own»”(Is 58:6,7; First Reading for the Friday after Ash Wednesday). These exhortations echo the anxieties of the people of today. Each individual truly shares in the sufferings and misery of all. Alms-giving and the gift of self should not be isolated and occasional acts, but the expression of brotherly union.

Our age is deeply aware of the need to take collective responsibility for the evils that weigh upon mankind. Only by response to this need can these evils be overcome. Lent puts the faithful on their guard against every form of waste, and urges them to make a united effort. The restoration of all things in Christ is closely connected with the Lenten spirit. Jesus himself will one day reveal to us the importance of the help we once gave to our brothers and sisters: “For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; … naked and you clothed me” (Mt 25:35-36). The appeal of Christ in his members concerns every Christian. No one can disregard the urgent pleading of his divine Brother. Experience shows that Christian communities which have the greatest needs are far from being the least sensitive to the needs of others. Yes, here and now we meet the needy Christ in the people around us, and this meeting cannot leave us indifferent. But one of the signs of our time is the widespread awareness of the afflictions that lie heavy upon mankind. Many obstacles in many places hinder the promotion of the human dignity of every individual. We have dedicated several documents to a detailed study of this problem. But our purpose today is to encourage commitment and direct action for its solution.

In many countries Lent is the occasion for organized action by the Church. She asks every individual to make a material contribution towards the complete development of all. Providing the means needed for this development is an important work, and we hope that such efforts will be intensified, in a spirit of genuine sharing. Considerable sums of money are needed for various programmes and projects and the amount required can only be obtained if each individual makes his contribution. Each person is asked to give according to his means, and to make a real effort in his giving.

By preaching these needs during Lent, the Church wishes to underline their religious aspect. One can give without really communicating, one can contribute without really sharing, one can deprive oneself of things without really having a spirit of poverty. But the person who makes a real effort, the person who genuinely seeks to help his brothers and sisters, the person who accepts his share of the Cross of Christ does not run this risk. If Lent is inspired by the charity of the Gospel and if it leads to practical action, material assistance will be ensured. Above all, Lent will bring about an increase of brotherhood, of justice, of happiness and of love. It will bring us true joy at the Resurrection of the Lord. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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**INDIFFERENCE**

*When Jesus came to Golgotha, they hanged Him on a tree,*

*They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made a Calvary;*

*They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were His wounds and deep,*

*For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was cheap.*

*When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed Him by.*

*They would not hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die;*

*For men had grown more tender, and they would not give Him pain,*

*They only just passed down the street, and left Him in the rain.*

*Still Jesus cried, ‘Forgive them, for they know not what they do,’*

*And still it rained the winter rain that drenched Him through and through;*

*The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see,*

*And Jesus crouched against a wall, and cried for Calvary.*

*GA Studdert Kennedy*

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"Ash Wednesday is full of joy...

The source of all sorrow

is the illusion

that of ourselves

we are anything but dust."

*Thomas Merton*