

# SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

## 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.

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Parish Email: [largs@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:largs@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

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Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee

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

**Crosshouse Hospital chaplain:** Fr. Stephen McGrattan at [crosshousehospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:crosshousehospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or 01563 521832; 2)

**Ayr Hospital chaplain:** Fr. Benjamin Mkeri at [ayrhospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:ayrhospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or 01655 882145.

**Holy Mass** (all Masses in person & live-streamed)

**Largs:** Saturday Vigil, 6pm; Sunday, 10am. Weekday Mass, 10am, Mon-Fri, except 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays.

**Millport:** Sunday, 12.15pm; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays, 10am.

### Reconciliation or Confession

**Largs:** Saturdays, 5-5.45pm; Mondays, after 10am Mass.

**Millport:** After 10am Mass every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday.

### WEEKLY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

COMMEMORATION	READINGS & MASS INTENTION
20/11: Solemnity of Christ the King - white.	Proper. All Souls (6pm Vigil) All Parishioners (10am) All Souls (12.15pm)
21/11: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - blue.	Mon, Week 34, Year 2 All Souls
22/11: St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr (d. 3 <sup>rd</sup> century) - red.	Tues, Week 34, Year 2 All Souls
23/11: Feria - green.	Wed, Week 34, Year 2 All Souls
24/11: SS. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions, Martyrs (17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> centuries) - red.	Thurs, Week 34, Year 2 All Souls
25/11: Votive Mass of the Precious Blood - red.	Fri, Week 34, Year 2 All Souls
26/11: Remembrance Mass for all Parishioners of both parishes who have died between December 2021 and November 2022. - purple.	Proper All Souls
27/11: First Sunday of Advent, Year A - purple.	Proper. All Souls (6pm Vigil) All Parishioners (10am) All Souls (12.15pm)

A = Anniversary of Death; RD = Recently Deceased; D = Deceased;

S = Sick; SI = Special Intention; RIP = Requiem Mass

**Sick:** Margaret Gallagher, Helen McShane, 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, Donal Hughes, Jonny Bilchak, James Reddoch, May Holland, Richard Dorman, Eileen Walker, Cynthia McGinty, Joseph Donnelly, Alistair Murphy, Isabella McNally, Eithne Brown, Mary Lyden, Ylena Green, Peter Grant, Kenneth Reader, Toni Caughey, Mary Boyce, Hugh Millar, Anton McCann, Rena Lee, Jim Lee, Brian Gilligan, Liam McDermott, Mari Richards, Frank McCarthy, Baby Ethan Ferguson, Harry Sammons, Henry McMonagle, Kenneth Manners, Joseph Bennett, Margaret Bennett, Joyce Clark, Suzanne Kerr, Sadie Jack, Stephanie Fisher, Val Manners, Charles Shaw, Janice Hamilton, Peter Kelly, James Martin, Chris Hyde, Robert Macmillan, Patricia Brown, John & Elizabeth Robertson, Barry Smith, Natasha McNicol, John Stewart, Suzanne Kelly, Helen Raymond, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Patricia Camfield, Val Manners, William McGrath, Jacqueline Docherty, Michael Cranston, Mgr. Thomas Canon Egan, Elizabeth MacDonald, Kenneth Collins. **Recently Deceased:** Joseph Cracknell, Cliff Cox. **Anniversary of Death:** Margaret Martin, Mary Hughes, Edna Byrne, John Paul McKay, Danny Fitzpatrick, Cyril Dorrian, Cathie Dorrian, Tessa Cassidy.

### NOTICES

**SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE MASS:** At 10am on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November in St. Mary's, Largs, we will celebrate a Mass to remember all those who have died in both our parishes between December 2021 and November 2022. There will be tea in the hall after the Mass. I invite as many parishioners as possible to come along and offer the charity of your prayers and support to those who are still grieving the loss of their loved ones.

**ADVENT:** The holy season of Advent begins with the Vigil Mass on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November. The liturgical colour for Advent is purple because Advent is a *penitential* season. To meet the Lord, we always need to ask Him to purify our hearts or, to put it another way, to give us the grace of repentance. While this grace is needed at all times, we implore it especially during Advent and Lent. Repentance is about getting rid of the sorrow and sadness of sin and embracing the joy and peace of reconciliation with Christ. It has many forms: the sacramental confession of sin, prayer, penance and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

The **spiritual works of mercy** address the needs of peoples' minds, hearts and souls. They are: 1) to admonish the sinner or give correction to those who need it; 2) to instruct the ignorant or to share our knowledge with others; 3) to counsel the doubtful or to give advice to those who need it; 4) to comfort the sorrowful or anyone who is suffering; 5) to bear wrongs patiently or to be patient with others; 6) to forgive all injuries or to forgive those who hurt us; 7) to pray for the living and the dead.

The **corporal works of mercy** are acts of love that address the physical and material needs of others. They are: 1) to feed the hungry; 2) to give drink to the thirsty; 3) to clothe the naked; 4) to visit the imprisoned 5) to shelter the homeless; 6) to visit the sick; 7) to bury the dead.

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After the sacrament of Baptism, **Sacramental confession** is the chief way in which Christ purifies us of sin. I strongly commend, indeed urge, a renewed practice of this Sacrament in our parishes. It's so easy to get used to sin in any of its forms and to get used to thinking that rather sad and erroneous thought that, somehow, "confession went out with Vatican II." No, it didn't. Sacramental confession exposes our souls once more to the power of Christ's saving death, namely, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It revives the soul, it relieves from the weight of guilt, it restores joy and ushers in peace.

During Advent, therefore, there will be a Penitential Service on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, at 2pm, with four priests in attendance. I will also hear confessions after Mass after the 10am Friday morning Masses during Advent (on top of Mondays after Mass and Saturday evenings from 5-5.45pm). If, apart from these times, someone still needs this wonderful Sacrament, he/she need only ask.

In the context of my hoped-for Eucharistic Revival in the parish, there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on the Fridays of Advent from 6.30-7.30pm. Why not inconvenience yourself for the Lord and come and love and worship Him for even five minutes of your, o, so precious time?

Finally, a word of spiritual advice: don't start celebrating Christmas before you've celebrated Advent! Leave for as long as possible the putting up of the Christmas Tree and decorations. If you live and intensely spiritual Advent, your Christmas joy will be all the greater. So, plan your Advent. Write into your schedule and diaries time for prayer, for penance, for confession, for adoration, for bible sharing with friends. Be Advent-urous!

**LITURGY THIS WEEK:** A devotional memorial in honour of Our Lady gives direction to this last week in Ordinary Time. Mary is always with us - at our beginning and our ending. The rest of the week is marked for the most part with the colour red. There is, on Tuesday, the famous yet, paradoxically, little-known virgin martyr St. Cecilia whose total love for Christ is the most important thing about her. Thursday brings us to Vietnam and the vicious martyrdom across three centuries of hundreds of newly converted Catholics. There would be no blood of martyrs without the Precious Blood of Christ, in honour of which we will celebrate a votive Mass on Friday. The Eucharist is the strength of the martyrs. Mid-week, there is on Wednesday a calmer moment on which we could prayerfully look back to Christ the King and look forward to the first Sunday of Advent. Finally, on Saturday we will celebrate Mass once more for those who have died this past year in our parishes.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Don't forget to increase your visits and devotion to the Lord in the Sacrament of the Altar during the day and week. It will do you a lot of good! In its own powerful and quiet way, it will build up the parish.

**ROSARY, WEEKDAY MASS:** Begins at 9.40pm.

**PRAYER GROUP (St. Mary's):** A charismatic prayer group meets from 2-3.30pm on Fridays in St. Mary's Hall. All are welcome. More information, John Tyler on 07779 277538. Please note that there will be no meeting on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**MILLPORT ROSARY GROUP:** Thursdays at 2pm in the church. All welcome!

**LARGS ROSARY GROUP:** Mondays at 2pm in the church hall.

**PRAYERLINE:** Please ring 07746 923 680.

**CATHEDRAL SERVICE OF ADVENT READINGS AND CAROLS:** A Service of Advent Readings and Carols will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday 21 December at 7.30 pm. This traditional service of many years in the Cathedral has suffered over the last two years due to the pandemic. The 2022 service provides an opportunity to come together once again as a diocesan family to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. All are welcome.

**SAFEGUARDING MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS:** Contact our Parish Safeguarding Coordinators: 1) Largs - Mr. Lewis Docherty on 07707 598929; 2) Millport (.....).

**YOUTH SAFEGUARDING FORUM:** The new Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency is developing a forum for young Catholic adults. This forum will in the first instance look at the current safeguarding training and resources for people in youth ministries, discuss ideas which have been proposed for development, and ultimately create a comprehensive package of training and resources for ministries involving young people. We will be joined at some online meetings by experts on particular aspects of Church teaching such as Theology of the Body and Catholic Social Teaching, to ensure all work created is informed by our faith and in line with our safeguarding instruction 'In God's Image', which can be downloaded at [scssa.org.uk/In-Gods-Image-v2](https://scssa.org.uk/In-Gods-Image-v2). If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and would be interested in joining this forum, or would like to know more, please contact Helena Rameckers by emailing [training@scssa.org.uk](mailto:training@scssa.org.uk) or phoning 07394 862 279 by Friday, 9th December. Please note that we also have a small number of spaces on the forum for older adults experienced in youth ministry!

**PARISH CENSUS (St. Mary's):** I appeal to parishioners who have not yet done so to pick up a census form from the back of the church or to click on the following link to complete your form online: <https://forms.gle/bViFEJbgCRVjuYnE8>

**YOUTH HUB (St. Mary's):** The next Youth Hub meeting will be on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 6.30-8pm. All children from P7 to S3 are welcome to attend and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship!

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**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK:** This year, the Week will be celebrated from 23-30 November. On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, there will be a speaker to address this important topic. There will also be a *special collection* for the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES).

**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC):** There is to be a Bill introduced to the Scottish Parliament by Gillian McKay of the SNP to propose jailing people who stand praying peaceably outside abortion clinics. If passed, this could mean that pro-lifers could be imprisoned for up to 2 years. St. Mary's Pro-Life Group will be in St. Mary's porch after the 6pm and 10pm Masses this weekend, distributing post cards for signatures against this Bill. Please support this petition.

**FROM THE DIOCESAN JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION:** We have received two notifications from the Commission: 1) **Dungavel Gathering:** "Ayrshire Hope Not Hate" have organised a solidarity gathering outside Dungavel Detention Centre on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 1pm. This will take the usual format of a minute's silence, followed by some short speeches before we hand over some cards and biscuits to those held inside Dungavel. The gathering will last approx. 1 hour. Please share with your groups and networks, all welcome. 2) **Church Investment in Climate Solutions** - you can register to join this Operation Noah Webinar next Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm at this link [Church investment in climate solutions report launch Tickets, Tue 22 Nov 2022 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#) Speakers include Lorna Gold, Director at FaithInvest and Chair of the Laudato Si Movement as well as John O'Shaughnessy (Chief Financial/Investment Officer at the Franciscan Sisters of Mary and Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Catholic Impact Initiative Collaborative (CIIC)), please invite anyone who may be interested to join.

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

**BULLETIN NOTICES:** must be notified to the parish office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays.**

**DEMENTIA AWARENESS:** The next free training course of 3 hours will be offered by Age Scotland on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 9.30-12.30pm.  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dementia-awareness-training-video-conference-wed-16-nov-1000-to1200-tickets-417915024087>

**THANKYOUS (St. Mary's):** 1) From St. Mary's Primary School for £1,000 donation; 2) From St. Columba's Parish Church for donation of £500 towards Heat & Hospitality; 3) From CHANA for £500 donation; 4) From Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative for donation of £500; 5) From St. Vincent de Paul Society for donation of £1,000; 6) From Barry and Jean Smith for prayers and support after Barry's recent stroke.

**GARDEN FETE INCOME DISTRIBUTION (St. Mary's):** On the occasion of the Parish Festival's Garden Fete, those who "manned" or "womanned" the various stalls donated money to charity. Some gave the donations directly to their chosen charities. Others submitted their donations to the parish for further distribution. Here is a note of the submitted income and its distribution as earmarked by those concerned: A total of £1,350.16 was distributed thus: 1) St. Mary's Primary School, £503.54; 2) Saint Vincent de Paul Society, £350.31; 3) Largs Foodbank, £350.31; 4) New tabernacle, £146. Huge thanks and congratulations to all who worked so hard!

**GIFT AID REPYAMENT (St. Mary's):** 1) A repayment of £11,648.86 has been received from HM Revenue and Customs in respect of offerings and donations for the year to 5th April 2022. A small part of this is in respect of donations to the Hall Fund. I would like to thank most sincerely everyone who has contributed by standing order, envelope and cash in the plate, particularly in the difficult times we have all experienced over the past few years. It is a real testament to your generosity and commitment to the parish. 2) If anyone who is a taxpayer would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme and/or arrange to pay a regular contribution by standing order, please contact Louise Devine, our Gift Aid Administrator on 672572. It is a straightforward process to join in the Scheme. 3) Part of the records required to be kept by HMRC in support of a Gift Aid Claim is an up-to-date address. If you are currently a Gift Aid contributor and you have changed address in the last five years, please would you contact Louise to ensure she has your current address on record.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** now available in St. Mary's stall.

**BENEDICTINE MONASTERY:** Christmas Fayre on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Adults £3. Children, free.

### WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS TO YOUNG PEOPLE CHRIST THE KING, 2020

Before pouring out his love for us on the cross, Jesus shares his final wishes. He tells us that the good we do to one of our least brothers and sisters – whether hungry or thirsty, a stranger, in need, sick or in prison – we do to him (cf. Mt 25:37-40). In this way, the Lord gives us his "gift list" for the eternal wedding feast he will share with us in heaven. Those gifts are the works of mercy that make our life eternal. Each of us can ask: Do I put these works into practice? Do I do anything for someone in need? Or do I do good only for my loved ones and my friends? Do I help someone who cannot give anything back to me? Am I the friend of a poor person? And there are many other similar questions we can ask ourselves. "There I am", Jesus says to you, "I am waiting for you there, where you least think and perhaps may not even want to look: there, in the poor". I am there, where the prevailing mentality, according to which life is good if it is good for me, least expects me to be. I am there. Jesus also says these words to you, young people, as you strive to realize your dreams in life.

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I am there. Jesus spoke these words centuries ago, to a young soldier. He was eighteen years old and not yet baptized. One day he saw a poor man who was begging people for help but received none, since “everyone walked by”. That young man, “seeing that others were not moved to compassion, understood that the poor person was there for him. Yet he had nothing on him, only his uniform. He cut his cloak in two and gave half to the poor person, and was met with mocking laughter from some of the bystanders. The following night he had a dream: he saw Jesus, wearing the half of the cloak he had wrapped around the poor person, and he heard him say: ‘Martin, you covered me with this cloak’”. Saint Martin of Tours was that young man. He had that dream because, without knowing it, he had acted like the righteous in today’s Gospel.

Dear young people, dear brothers and sisters, let us not give up on great dreams. Let us not settle only for what is necessary. The Lord does not want us to narrow our horizons or to remain parked on the roadside of life. He wants us to race boldly and joyfully towards lofty goals. We were not created to dream about vacations or the weekend, but to make God’s dreams come true in this world. God made us capable of dreaming, so that we could embrace the beauty of life. The works of mercy are the most beautiful works in life. They go right to the heart of our great dreams. If you are dreaming about real glory, not the glory of this passing world but the glory of God, this is the path to follow. For the works of mercy give glory to God more than anything else. Listen carefully: the works of mercy give glory to God more than anything else. In the end we will be judged on the works of mercy.

Yet how do we begin to make great dreams come true? With great choices. Today’s Gospel speaks to us about this as well. Indeed, at the last judgement, the Lord will judge us on the choices we have made. He seems almost not to judge, but merely to separate the sheep from the goats, whereas being good or evil depends on us. He only draws out the consequences of our choices, brings them to light and respects them. Life, we come to see, is a time for making robust, decisive, eternal choices. Trivial choices lead to a trivial life; great choices to a life of greatness. Indeed, we become what we choose, for better or for worse. If we choose to steal, we become thieves. If we choose to think of ourselves, we become self-centred. If we choose to hate, we become angry. If we choose to spend hours on a cell phone, we become addicted. Yet if we choose God, daily we grow in his love, and if we choose to love others, we find true happiness. Because the beauty of our choices depends on love. Remember this because it is true: the beauty of our choices depends on love. Jesus knows that if we are self-absorbed and indifferent, we remain paralyzed, but if we give ourselves to others, we become free. The Lord of life wants us to be full of life, and he tells us the secret of life: we come to possess it only by giving it away. This is a rule of life: we come to possess life, now and in eternity, only by giving it away.

It is true that there are obstacles that can make our choices difficult: fear, insecurity, so many unanswered questions... Love, however, demands that we move beyond these, and not keep wondering why life is the way it is, and expecting answers to fall down from heaven. The answer has come: it is the gaze of the Father who loves us and who has sent us his Son. No, love pushes us to go beyond the why, and instead to ask for whom, to pass from asking, “Why am I alive?” to “For whom am I living?” From “Why is this happening to me?” to “Whom can I help?” For whom? Not just for myself! We can waste years thinking about ourselves, without

ever actually starting to love. Not only doubts and questions can undermine great and generous choices, but many other obstacles as well every day. Feverish consumerism can overwhelm our hearts with superfluous things. An obsession with pleasure may seem the only way to escape problems, yet it simply postpones them. A fixation with our rights can lead us to neglect our responsibilities to others. Then, there is the great misunderstanding about love, which is more than powerful emotions, but primarily a gift, a choice and a sacrifice. The art of choosing well, especially today, means not seeking approval, not plunging into a consumerist mentality that discourages originality, and not giving into the cult of appearances. Choosing life means resisting the “throwaway culture” and the desire to have “everything now”, in order to direct our lives towards the goal of heaven, towards God’s dreams. To choose life is to live, and we were born to live, not just get by. A young man like yourselves, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, said this: “I want to live, not just get by”.

Each day, in our heart, we face many choices. I would like to give you one last piece of advice to help train you to choose well. If we look within ourselves, we can see two very different questions arising. One asks, “What do I feel like doing?” This question often proves misleading, since it suggests that what really counts is thinking about ourselves and indulging in our wishes and impulses. The question that the Holy Spirit plants in our hearts is a very different one: not “What do you feel like doing?” but “What is best for you?” That is the choice we have to make daily: what do I feel like doing or what is best for me? This interior discernment can result either in frivolous choices or in decisions that shape our lives – it depends on us. Let us look to Jesus and ask him for the courage to choose what is best for us, to enable us to follow him in the way of love. And in this way to discover joy. To live, and not just get by.

### SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT ST. MARY’S

Date & Time	Event
Sat 26/11/22, 10am	Remembrance Mass for parishioners who have died from December 2021 to November, 2022
Sun 27/11/22	Catholic Education Sunday
Sat 3/12/22, 2pm	Remembrance Service of Light, Wm Tyre.
Tues 13/12/22, 7pm	School Nativity, St. Mary’s church
Tues 20/12/22, 7pm	Carols & Readings Service
Wed 21/12/22, 2pm	Penance Service, 4 priests
Wed 21/12/22, 7.30pm	Diocesan Carol Service, St. Margaret’s Cathedral, Ayr
Sat-Sun 21-22/1/23, Vigil & Sunday Masses	Renewal of commitment by Readers, Word of God Sunday
Sun 22/1/23, 5pm	Christian Unity Service, St. Columba’s Episcopal Church
Sun 19/2/23, 10am	Confirmations, St. Mary’s church
Wed 22/2/23	Ash Wednesday
Thu-Sun, 6-9/4/23	Easter Triduum
Sun 7/5/23, 12 Noon	First Holy Communions