

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, 25th DECEMBER 2022

SAINT MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR
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Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee

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

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

Ayr Hospital chaplain: Fr. Benjamin Mkeri at 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 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

COMMEMORATION	READINGS & MASS INTENTION
24/12: Christmas Eve - white 4pm (Millport) 8pm (Largs)	Proper Eddie Docherty, A For the Eucharistic Revival of both our parishes
25/12: Christmas Day - white	Proper All Parishioners
26/12: Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon & Protomartyr - red	Proper John Rourke, A
27/12: Feast of St. John, Apostle - white	Proper Liam O'Shaughnessy, RD
28/12: Feast of the Holy Innocents - red	Proper Special Intention
29/12: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr (d.1170) - red	Proper Euan Thomson, D
30/12: Feast of the Holy Family - white	Proper Special Intention (AK)
31/12: Christmas Feria	---
1/1: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - white	Proper Phia Boyle (6pm) All Parishioners (10am) Largs Benedictine Community (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, 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 McInally, 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, 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, William McGrath, Jacqueline Docherty, Mgr. Thomas Canon Egan, Elizabeth MacDonald, Kenneth Collins, Mary McCaffrey, Margaret Maguire, Tom Maguire, Peter Aitken. **Recently Deceased:** Agnes Devine, Edmund Nears, Pauline Balanowski, John McLaughlin, Liam O'Shaughnessy, Duncan Simpson. **Anniversary of Death:** Mary McFadden, Margaret Kerr, John Rourke, Russell King, Archie McBride, Stephen Crawford, Mary McLowghlan.

NOTICES

MR. EDMUND NEARS, RIP (St. Mary's): We continue to pray for Mr. Nears and for his family and friends. The Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 29th December at 12 Noon and thereafter to the Brisbane Glen Cemetery.

MRS AGNES DEVINE, RIP (St. Mary's): Let's also continue to pray for Agnes and for her family at this time. Her coffin will be brought to the church on the evening of Wednesday 4th January at 6.30pm, with the Requiem Mass being celebrated on Thursday 5th January at 10am, and thereafter to the Brisbane Glen Cemetery.

ALL WEEKDAY MASSES BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WILL BE AT 12 NOON.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: This year, the Feast is not celebrated on a Sunday, but on Friday 30th December. I encourage as many people as possible to come to Mass that day, *especially the married and those with families*, to pray for the protection and strengthening of married and family life in the Church and in society.

LITURGY THIS WEEK: We are given a veritable feast of feasts this week, as is only fitting after the great Solemnity of Christmas. The colours of the week are white and red, i.e. glory and martyrdom. For St. John, the glory of Jesus is his Cross and so it is also the glory of the martyrs Stephen, the Innocents and Thomas Beckett. The Christmas Gospel is thus not closed in on itself but is opened out to the Easter Gospel in which it is fulfilled.

PRAYER GROUP (St. Mary's): A charismatic prayer group meets from 2-3.30pm on Fridays in St. Mary's Hall. All are welcome. **The next meeting will be on Friday 6th January.** More information, John Tyler on 07779 277538.

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MILLPORT ROSARY GROUP: The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th January**. During January, the group will meet in someone's home rather than in the church. All are welcome. For more information, 01475 530417.

LARGS ROSARY AND ADORATION GROUP: Mondays at 2pm in the church hall. For vocations to the priesthood. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 2nd January**.

PRAYERLINE: Please ring 07746 923 680 if you need prayerful support.

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

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

ST. MARGARET'S CHILDREN AND FAMILY CARE SOCIETY: This Scottish Society used to be known as the St. Margaret's Adoption Society. All donations made to the Cribs in both parish churches will be sent to St. Margaret's. It is the only Catholic Adoption Society in Britain. The money raised through crib donations are vital for the solvency and running of the Society. Like so many others, it has been badly affected by the Covid and economic situations. The crib appeal for 2018 was £78,616. The 2021 appeal was £55,037, a dip of 35.39%. So, I do encourage those who are able to keep this important charity in mind over Christmas.

CHRISTMAS SECOND COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE: There will be a second collection at all Christmas Masses in both parishes for the people of Ukraine.

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

From the first Christmas Message of Pope Benedict XVI (25 December 2005)

"I bring you good news of a great joy ... for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11).

"On Christmas night we hear once more the Angel's message to the shepherds, and we experience anew the atmosphere of that holy Night, Bethlehem Night, when the Son of God became man, was born in a lowly stable and dwelt among us. On this solemn day, the Angel's proclamation rings out once again, inviting us, the men and women of the third millennium, to welcome the Saviour. May the people of today's world not hesitate to let him enter their homes, their cities,

their nations, everywhere on earth! In the millennium just past, and especially in the last centuries, immense progress was made in the areas of technology and science. Today we can dispose of vast material resources. But the men and women in our technological age risk becoming victims of their own intellectual and technical achievements, ending up in spiritual barrenness and emptiness of heart. That is why it is so important for us to open our minds and hearts to the Birth of Christ, this event of salvation which can give new hope to the life of each human being.

Wake up, O man! For your sake God became man" (Saint Augustine, *Sermo*, 185). Wake up, O men and women of the third millennium!

At Christmas, the Almighty becomes a child and asks for our help and protection. His way of showing that he is God challenges our way of being human. By knocking at our door, he challenges us and our freedom; he calls us to examine how we understand and live our lives. The modern age is often seen as an awakening of reason from its slumbers, humanity's enlightenment after an age of darkness.

Yet without the light of Christ, the light of reason is not sufficient to enlighten humanity and the world. For this reason, the words of the Christmas Gospel: "the true Light that enlightens every man was coming into this world" (Jn 1:9) resound now more than ever as a proclamation of salvation. "It is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of humanity truly becomes clear" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 22).

Men and women of today, humanity come of age yet often still so frail in mind and will, let the Child of Bethlehem take you by the hand! Do not fear; put your trust in him! The life-giving power of his light is an incentive for building a new world order based on just ethical and economic relationships. May his love guide every people on earth and strengthen their common consciousness of being a "family" called to foster relationships of trust and mutual support."

A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL! MAY 2023 BE A YEAR OF HIGH HOPES AND NEW HORIZONS FOR YOU AND ALL WHOM YOU LOVE!

THANKYOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED PREPARE OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AND A PERSONAL THANKS FROM ME FOR ALL THE GIFTS, PRAYERS AND CARDS RECEIVED.
Fr. Peter