

SEVENTH ORDINARY SUNDAY (A), 19th FEBRUARY 2023

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 Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee

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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
19/2: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - green	Proper Allan Gillan, D (6pm Vigil) All Parishioners (10am) Holy Souls (12.15pm)
20/2: Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom - blue	Ordinary Week 7, Mon Mary Devine, A
21/2: Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit - red	Ordinary Week 7, Tues Norman Blair, RIP
22/2: Ash Wednesday - purple	Proper Anna Jo Galloway, D
23/2: Thursday after Ash Wednesday - purple	Proper Shiona McDonald, D
24/2: Friday after Ash Wednesday - purple	Proper William McGrath, S
25/2: Saturday after Ash Wednesday - purple	---
26/2: First Sunday of Lent - purple	Proper Anna Jo Galloway, D (6pm Vigil) All Parishioners (10am) Eileen White, D (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, Bruce McDougall, Jessie Clements, Baby Ava May Cleary, Teresa Black, Peter McConville, Claire McConville, Lizzie Park, Francis Livingstone, Margaret Rutherford, Martin Doherty, Ben Brownlie, Sheena Lane, Donal Hughes, Jonny Bilchak, James Reddoch, May Holland, Richard Dorman, Eileen Walker, 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, Frank McCarthy, Baby Ethan Ferguson, Harry Sammons, Henry McMonagle, Kenneth Manners, Joseph Bennett, Margaret Bennett, Suzanne Kerr, 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, William McGrath, Jacqueline Docherty, Mgr. Thomas Canon Egan, Kenneth Collins, Mary McCaffrey, Margaret Maguire, Tom Maguire, Peter Aitken, Mary Hudson, Margaret MacMillan, Arthur Sambucci. **Recently Deceased:** Norman Blair, Elaine Hanlon, Mary Tedford, Noreen Callaghan, Myra Ryan. **Anniversary of Death:** Amabile Bianchi, Marie Clare Cushley, Paul Bisland. **Special Anniversary:** Diamond Wedding of Betty and Val Manners, on Thursday 23rd Feb.

NOTICES

MR. NORMAN BLAIR, RIP: I regret to announce the death of Norman Blair, husband of Cathie Blair and dad to Kenneth and Leslie, who passed away at Inverclyde Hospital on 9th February. On behalf of the whole parish, I assure Cathie of our prayers for Norman's eternal rest in the presence of the Lord, and extend to her and the whole family our sincerest condolences. There will be a Funeral Service at the Clyde Crematorium on Tuesday, 21st February, at 3pm. The 10am Mass that morning will be offered for Norman.

MISS ELAINE HANLON, RIP: I received the sad news of the death of Elaine at Lady Margaret Hospital, Cumbernauld, on 16th February. May her sweet soul know the eternal joy and glory of the Risen Christ. On behalf of the whole parish, I express our deepest sympathies to Elaine's family and assure them of our prayers at this sad time. Details of the funeral are yet to be announced, though the Requiem Mass will take place in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour's Church, Millport.

ASH WEDNESDAY: The holy season of Lent begins on Wednesday 22nd February. Masses in St. Mary's, Largs, will be at 10am and 7pm, with the distribution of ashes. In Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Millport, Mass with ashes will be at 12.15pm. Ashes will be distributed to the children of St. Mary's Primary in the school during the afternoon.

BAPTISM (St. Mary's): I am delighted to announce that on Saturday 18th February at 12 Noon, the sacrament of Baptism was conferred on Perrie Jo Galek, daughter to Jason and Marie Galek. Congratulations!

CONFIRMATIONS (St. Mary's): 10am Mass on Sunday 19th February.

LITURGY THIS WEEK: On Monday and Tuesday we ask for the help of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, and of the Holy Spirit to help us prepare for Lent. Ash Wednesday is the main focus of the week. As we receive the ashes, let us ask for the grace of a deep and definitive surrender of our

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lives to Jesus. Thursday and Friday begin the ordinary days of Lent and will help get us going in our Lenten observance.

EUCCHARISTIC LENT: I invite everyone in both parishes to allow the Eucharist to be the centre of your Lenten journey, both by attendance at Mass and through time spent before Him, either at Exposition or in the hiddenness of the Tabernacle. Ask Blessed Carlo Acutis to help you gravitate more and more towards the stupendous and consoling truth of the Real Presence of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the wondrous gift of the Eucharist.

In St. Mary's, Largs, on Friday evenings during Lent, beginning on 24th February and ending on 31st March, there will be silent exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30-7.30pm, with Confessions from 7pm.

In Our Lady of Perpetual Succour's, Millport, on the Sundays of Lent, beginning on 26th February and ending on 2nd April, there will be silent exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4-5pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (St. Mary's, 7pm)

Date	Leader
1 st March	Fr. Peter
8 th March	<i>available</i>
15 th March	Pro-Life Group
22 nd March	Choir
29 th March	<i>available</i>
5 th April	<i>available</i>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (Our Lady of Perpetual Succour's): Tuesdays and Fridays of Lent at 11am in the church, beginning on Friday 24th February and ending on Tuesday 4th April.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR ABUSE VICTIMS: On Friday, we will hold a Liturgy of the Word at 3pm in St. Mary's, Largs, and so join with the rest of the Catholic Church in Scotland in marking the annual Day of Prayer for Those who have Suffered from Abuse. I encourage as many people as possible to come and add the power of their prayer for the peace and healing of the abused under the Sign of the Cross.

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.

MILLPORT ROSARY GROUP: Thursdays, at 2pm. During February, 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.

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

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

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

READERS: I appeal to parishioners in St. Mary's who would be interested in proclaiming the Word of God at Mass to get in touch with me. Please remember that you need to have the capacity to project your voice, despite the microphone being there. In fact, we don't actually "read" at Mass anyway, rather we "proclaim" the Word with confidence, understanding of its meaning, calmly, neither too rapidly nor too slowly. The ministry of proclaiming the Word can have an important impact on the spiritual lives of those present.

PARISH CHOIR (St. Mary's): Choir practices have recommenced on Sundays after the 10 am Mass and all are most welcome to join. The focus of our practices will be the Holy Week liturgies and your voice would only enrich our efforts in that most sacred week. Please contact Anne Timmons (673053) or Louise Devine (672572).

THE IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTRE (GLASGOW) is delighted again this year to run an online Lenten retreat and to provide a free App and free booklets to those that would like them. Retreat details and how to get the booklets can be seen here: <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent23.html> You can view the retreat on www.onlineprayer.net/saints

"SYCAMORE - "HOLY SPIRIT" COURSE FOR LENT
What does it mean to live our Christian faith through the power of the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit work through the Church and through the sacraments? How does the Holy Spirit call us to a particular vocation, send us out on mission, and help us to live our faith in the family and in society? *Sycamore* is a video-based, informal course, about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today and is being used in parishes and schools across the UK and beyond. It gives space to meet others, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter.

Over a six-week period during Lent, small groups of 6 to 10 parishioners, will meet each Thursday evening, in the Church Hall, commencing Feb. 23rd, from 7.30pm to 9pm. Each session will involve video clips to introduce topics followed by suggestions for discussion. There's no pressure. You can be yourself without any fear of being judged. This particular Sycamore course is called the "Holy Spirit Pathway" and does not repeat any of the six session videos which formed the basis of last year's Sycamore Lent course. *To join a group,* please add your name to the list on the Notice Board in the Porch, or contact myself or Gordon McMillan Tel. 07977-403462, email gordonmcmillan7@gmail.com.

YOUTH HUB (St. Mary's): The next Youth Hub meeting will be on Friday 24th February from 6.30-8pm. All children

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from P7 to S3 are welcome to attend and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship! Contact: Ed Stewart on Tel. 07796 209986, and edwardastewart70@gmail.com , for further information.

PAX CHRISTI SCOTLAND: Invite you to their upcoming free online event to mark International Women's Day Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7pm. The theme is: "International Women's Day - What Price Peace?" In homes and communities around the world - from Scotland to Afghanistan, Kenya to Iran - women's freedoms and peace of mind suffer in many ways. Join powerful peace advocates at Pax Christi Scotland's online event: 'What price peace?' 7pm UK time, Wednesday, March 8, 2023 For further information, see www.paxchristiscotland.org or @PaxChristiScotland on Facebook.

NEW VOTIVE CANDLE STANDS: I am delighted to announce that the new candle stands will be in place from this weekend. They are a very generous donation to the parish from Betty and Val Manners. The new stands are cleaner and easier both to use and to maintain. One stand will hold blue candles in honour of Our Lady. The other will hold red in honour of the Sacred Heart. Once the new tabernacle is in place (mid-March), the Lady statue will be moved across to the altar at the side aisle of the church. The Sacred Heart statue will be lifted up onto the plinth where the Lady statue currently stands.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 3-10 July, 2023. See Poster in Church Porch. £949 each, full board.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: 15-22 October, 2023. See Poster in Church Porch. £1128 (+air fare) per person, based on two sharing twin room.

PARISHES' PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI: I hope this can be organized for early 2024, depending on interest. I have no idea of cost as yet. By Divine Providence, someone with experience in organizing pilgrimages has come forward to set the first steps in motion. Blessed Carlo obviously wants us to come!

TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE: In Largs, there will be a second collection taken up at all Masses on the weekends of 18/19 and 25/26 February for relief for those who have suffered such devastation due to the earthquake. Gift Aid envelopes for SCIAF are available.

In Millport, a second collection will be taken up on Sunday 26th February only.

Eucharistic Crumbs (3)

The Eucharist is the heart of the cosmos. It is where the created universe and the reality of heaven, of God, intersect. Through the Eucharist, the cosmos is being made divine.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Place and Time	Event
Sun, 19.02.23	10am, St. Mary's	Confirmations
Wed, 22.02.23	--	Ash Wednesday
Fri, 24.02.23	3pm, St. Mary's	Day of Prayer for Victims of Abuse
Thu, 02.03.23	6.30-8pm, St. Mary's	Agape
Sat, 04.03.23	11am, St. Mary's	Memorial Mass for Kevin Grant, RIP
Sat, 04.03.23	12 Noon, Benedictine Convent	125 th anniversary celebration of the Order's Foundation
Wednesdays of Lent	7pm, St. Mary's	Stations of the Cross
Fridays of Lent	7pm, St. Mary's	Silent Adoration with Confessions
Tues, 21.03.23	11am, School	First Confessions
Thu, 31.03.23	2pm, St. Mary's	Penance Service
Fri, 31.03.23	10am, St. Mary's	Children's pre-Easter Mass
2-9 April 2023	--	Holy Week

A LENTEN MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS

"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Rm 8: 19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God "gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ" (Preface of Lent I). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ's paschal mystery – "for in hope we were saved" (Rom 8:24). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, "the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Rom 8:19). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

1. The redemption of creation

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. Rom 8:29) is a priceless gift of God's mercy.

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:14) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God's law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by

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cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus' paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the "Canticle of the Creatures" by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. The destructive power of sin

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans "I want it all and I want it now!" and "Too much is never enough", gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. Gen 3:17-18). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God's law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. Mk 7:20-23) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

3. The healing power of repentance and forgiveness

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made "a new creation". For "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, creation itself can celebrate a Pasch, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. Rev 21:1). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This "eager longing", this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth "from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. Prayer, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, the "lenten" period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the desert of creation had the goal of making it once more that garden of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. Mk 1:12-13; Is 51:3). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be "set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.