

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, 6th AUGUST 2023

“IT IS WONDERFUL FOR US TO BE HERE” (MATT 17: 4)

SAINT MARY, STAR OF THE SEA

28 Greenock Road, Largs, KA30 8NE

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

College Street, Millport, KA28 0BG

Registered Charity No. is SC010576

Tel: 01475 740019.

Website: rclargsandmillport.com

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

Parish Email: largs@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee

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

Martin Doherty, Ben Brownlie, Sheena Lane, Donal Hughes, Jonny Bilchak, James Reddoch, May Holland, Richard Dorman, Eileen Walker, Joseph Donnelly, Alistair Murphy, Isabella McInally, Eithne Brown, Mary Lyden, Ylena Green, 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, Joseph Bennett, Margaret Bennett, Suzanne Kerr, Stephanie Fisher, Charles Shaw, Janice Hamilton, Peter Kelly, James Martin, Chris Hyde, Robert Macmillan, Patricia Brown, John & Elizabeth Robertson, Barry Smith, Natasha McNicol, Suzanne Kelly, Margaret Fitzpatrick, William McGrath, Jacqueline Docherty, Mgr. Thomas Canon Egan, Kenneth Collins, Mary McCaffrey, Margaret Maguire, Tom Maguire, Peter Aitken, Mary Hudson, Margaret MacMillan, Betty O'Donnell, Linda Scott, Ann Clark, Fr. Eamonn Flynn, Nancy Heaton. **Recently Deceased:** Kenneth Manners, Janette Crisp. Peter Grant. **Anniversary of Death:** Thomas McGowan, Rose and Bob Simpson.

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 (.....).

- 1) **Crosshouse Hospital chaplain:** Fr. Stephen McGrattan at crosshousehospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or 01563 521832;
2) **Ayr Hospital chaplain:** Fr. Benjamin Mkeri at avrhospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or 01655 882145.

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

Largs: 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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Day	Largs	Millport
Sunday	9.20-9.55am (S) on 2 nd Sunday of the month only	4-5pm (S)
Monday	9.20-9.55am (R) 2-3pm (R) (H)	---
Tuesday	9.20-9.55am (R)	---
Wednesday	9.20-9.55am (R)	---
Thursday 1, 3, 4 (& 5)	9.20-9.55am (R)	1.45pm (R)
Thursday 1 only	6.30-8pm (R)	---
Thursday 2 only	---	9-9.55am (R) 2-3pm (R)
Friday	9.20-9.55am (R)	---
2 nd Saturday only	5-5.55pm (S)	---

S = Silent; R = Rosary; H = Hall

Please note: no adoration or rosary prior to a funeral.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY, Year A

WEEKDAY, Year I

COMMEMORATION	READINGS & MASS INTENTION
6/8: The Transfiguration of the Lord - white	Proper Kevin Grant, D (6pm) All Parishioners (10am) Gino Capocchi, D (12.15pm)
7/8: St. Cajetan, Priest (d. 1547) - white	Ordinary Week 18, Mon Jim McGill, D
8/8: St. Dominic, Priest (d. 1221) - white	Ordinary Week 18, Tues Domenico Fontana, D
9/8: Feast of St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin & Martyr (d. 1942) - red	Proper Mother Mary Bennet, SI
10/8: Feast of St. Laurence, Deacon & martyr (d. 258) - red [Millport]	Proper Sheila Smith, D
11/8: St. Clare, Virgin (d. 1253) - white	Ordinary Week 18, Fri Marion McDermott, D
12/8: Feria	---
13/8: Nineteenth Ordinary Sunday - green	Proper Frank Maley, D (6pm) All Parishioners (10am) Thomas Boyle, 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, Francis Livingstone,

Psalm Response if sung (Vigil & Sunday Masses): The Lord is King, most high above all the earth.

NOTICES

JANETTE CRISP, RIP (St. Mary's): Truly sorry to announce the death of Mrs Janette Crisp. May the Lord welcome her into his compassionate and merciful heart and give deep consolation and strength to all the family. Funeral service at Clyde Coast and Garnock Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 8th August at 2.00pm.

PETER GRANT, RIP (St. Mary's): I regret to announce the recent death of Mr. Grant. May the Lord grant him eternal rest in the peace of the Kingdom, and may he console his dear wife Mary and all the family. Funeral arrangements to follow.

BAPTISM (St. Mary's, Largs): On Saturday 12th August at 12 Noon, we will have the joy of the Baptism of Maelin Kerr, daughter of Christopher and Michelle Kerr (nee Condron). Let us pray for this child and all her family!

LITURGY THIS WEEK: The Church offers us a sumptuous banquet of celebrations this week. First, there are three saints who founded religious congregations: St. Cajetan, the Theatines; St. Dominic, the Dominicans; and St. Clare, the Poor Clares. Then, there are two feasts of martyrs, one female and the other male: St. Theresa

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Benedicta of the Cross, martyred by the Nazis in 1942; and St. Laurence, martyred by the Romans in 258. The life and death stories of each of these five saints are vivid reflections of the life and death story of the Lord whom they loved with all their heart and soul and mind and strength. They inspire and spur us on to seek holiness in surrendering ourselves to Christ in the circumstances of our own daily lives. As Pope Clement wrote back at the turn of the 1st century AD, “cling to the saints and you will be sanctified.”

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION (St. Mary’s): Please remember that there will be Eucharistic Adoration before the Saturday Vigil and Sunday morning Masses every second weekend of the month. Hence, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 5pm on Saturday 12th August before the 6pm Vigil Mass, and again on Sunday 13th August at 9.20am before the 10am Mass. I invite and encourage you to make the effort if you can to come out the little bit earlier before Mass and to pray to the Lord with simple and heartfelt love and adoration. Let’s try and be as silent as we can on coming into the church in order to cultivate that spirit of prayerfulness and surrender to the Lord.

ALTAR SERVERS: Any Catholic child in St. Mary’s parish who has received First Holy Communion and wishes to become an altar server is welcome to come forward. I ask a parent or other legal guardian or carer to fill in the form entitled “Altar Server Application”, provided at the back of the church, and to return it to me, Fr. Peter, after Mass or to pop it through the letter box of the parish house no later than 15 August. Training will commence soon after that date. Teenagers are also very welcome!

MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION: Please leave your written prayer intentions for Fr. Peter in the box provided at the back of the church for his holy hour of intercession on Fridays. He will pick them up when he returns.

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

PRAYER MEETING: 2pm on Fridays in St. Mary’s hall.

PARISHES’ 2024 PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI: Please note a few changes of detail. The dates will now be **8-12 (not 8-13) February 2024**, due to Ryanair issues. We will now be staying in a religious house, not a hotel. These two details will bring the cost down. Since we are being urged to finalise the booking, I would ask anyone intending to go on the pilgrimage to book as soon as possible. For that reason, the pilgrimage is **now open** to **non-parishioners**. For more information, contact Tim Bray on 07709 921 807 or bravtim@outlook.com

BULLETIN NOTICES: By 12 Noon on Wednesdays.

THE ALTAR (4)

Let’s continue to deepen our understanding of the importance of the altar in the church.

The Church says that altars should be fixed to the floor. This is intended to show both Christ’s eternity and his never-ending commitment to his people. The top slab of the altar (known as the “mensa” or table) is to be made of stone, echoing the Scriptures which repeatedly call Christ a rock and cornerstone. Although exceptions are allowed in particular cases for wooden or portable altars, stone is meant to indicate Christ’s strength and permanence.

When an altar is dedicated, it is anointed with oil (chrism) and incensed. These actions reveal that the altar is a sacramental of Christ (just like holy water is a sacramental).

First, He is the One anointed by the Father with the Holy Spirit. He is the “high priest, who on the altar of his Body, would offer the sacrifice of his life for the salvation of all.”

Then, incense is burned to signify that the perfect sacrifice of Christ ascends to God “as an odour of sweetness.” St. Thomas Aquinas noted that not only does the altar itself signify Christ, but also that the consecration of the altar “signifies Christ’s holiness.”

The lighting of candles on or near the altar signifies Christ as the “light to enlighten the nations.”

The rites of the Church, then, lead the viewer from the external sign to the sacramental mystery it makes present: in looking at an earthly object made of stone, even Christ’s holiness can be encountered.

Practically speaking, any adornment given to an altar should increase the revelation that the altar itself is Christ; it should not be a “sideboard” to support a pious image or devotional slogan, or something to lean on or against.

The five consecration crosses on the table of the altar, for instance, reveal that the altar is Christ because they indicate his five wounds. They belong to the nature of Christ himself, and therefore to the nature of the altar itself. Inset areas of gold, mosaic or multicoloured stone, similarly express in architectural terms the gem-like radiance of heaven which corresponds to Christ’s own glory.

Our altar in St. Mary’s is engraved on the front with the sculpture of the pelican feeding its chicks with its own flesh and blood. This points to the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross who feeds us with his own Body and Blood.

So it is that the altar is not just a meaningless slab of stone, but is a rich and powerful symbol of Christ himself, sacrificed and glorified. That is why nothing should ever be placed on or near it which does not bring out its deep spiritual and theological meaning. It should never be used just to put things on as if it were like the table in the church porch.

The priest himself kisses the altar at the beginning and end of Mass to express the entire Church’s devotion and love for Christ. The altar remains bare until the bidding prayers are finished when it is then prepared for the Eucharist. Likewise, when people are coming up to the sanctuary to read or to receive the Eucharist to distribute to the congregation, they bow to the altar, i.e. to Christ.

(To be continued: Adapted from a 2016 article on Adoremus.org by Denis McNamara).