

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, 22nd FEBRUARY 2026

“JESUS WAS LED UP BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL” (Matthew 4:1)

SAINT MARY, STAR OF THE SEA
28 GREENOCK ROAD, LARGGS, KA30 8NE

&
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR
COLLEGE STREET, MILLPORT, KA28 0BG
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Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Canon Magee
PP's email: peter.magee@rcdg.org.uk

Parishes' Secretary: Mrs. Luciana Stewart
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St. Mary's Parish Buildings & Grounds Caretaker & Hallkeeper:
Mr. Edward Stewart, 07796 209986
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Our Lady's Parish Buildings & Grounds Caretaker:
Mr. Luigi Giorgetti, 07941 222303
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Holy Mass (all Masses in person & live-streamed):

Largs: Saturday Vigil, 6pm; Sunday, 10am.

10am Mass on Mon, Tue, Thu (except 2nd Thursdays) & Fri.
8am Mass on Wednesdays.

Holidays of Obligation: Vigil, 7pm; Day Mass at 10am only.

Millport: Sunday, 12.15pm; 2nd Thursdays, 10am.

Holidays of Obligation, 12.15pm only.

N.B. There may be occasional variations in Mass times, so please check the weekly bulletin to be sure.

Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession:

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

First Mondays of the Month: 7-8pm.

Millport: After 10am Mass every 2nd Thursday.

Eucharistic Adoration & Prayers for Vocations to the Priesthood on
Mondays at 2pm, Largs (Hall).

Divine Mercy Chaplet (Largs), Fridays 2.30-3.30pm.

Prayer Line: Please ring 07746 923 680 for prayerful support.

Bible Study Group (Largs): Thursdays, 2.15pm, in the hall
(bar the last Thursday in the month).

Parishes' Pro-Life Group: First Fridays after 10am Mass, except for
the months of January, July and August.

Book Club (Largs): Last Thursday, 2.15pm in the hall.

Chat 'N Do (Largs): Wednesdays, 1-3pm in the hall.

Tea & Coffee in St. Mary's Hall after Sunday 10am Mass

SVDP phone number: 07301 021 644.

Please direct all enquiries and requests directly to this number.

Safeguarding Mobile Phone Numbers: Contact our Parish Safeguarding
Coordinators: 1) Largs - Lewis Docherty on 07707 598929; 2) Millport
- Andrew Gallagher on 07789 229842.

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

Ayr Hospital chaplain: Fr. Benjamin Mkeri at ayrhospital@rcdg.org.uk
or 01655 882145.

Recently Deceased: May Holland, Theresa Mary McLaughlin. **Anniversary of Death:** Desmond Black, Amabile Bianchi, Eddie McCarthy, Marie Clare Cushley, Jemima Porter McLaren, Ian Catterson, Mary Ann MacNeil, Domenico Fontana, Gino Capocchi. **Sick:** Fr. Gerry McNellis, James & Margaret Sherriff, the Dillon Family, Anne Comiskey, Linda Reynolds, Jimmy Sturman, Agatha McAllister, Betty McLean, Michael McSorley, Sandi Bray, Margaret Kett, Alison Foran, Tom Maguire, Angela Fraser, Dale Cooper, Iain McBride, Caterina King, John Nicol, Frank Murray, Brian Murphy, Margaret Gallagher, Helen McShane, Colette McCafferty, Jessie Clements, May Holland, Eithne Brown, Mary Lyden, Ylena Green, Hugh Millar, Anton McCann, Rena Lee, Jim Lee, Brian Gilligan, Elizabeth Robertson, Barry Smith, Margaret Fitzpatrick, William McGrath, Betty O'Donnell, Linda Scott, Jordan McGee, Sheila Ferguson, Michelle Rall Stephenson, Catherine Dawson, Karen Bohme, John Alexander, Catherine Montgomery.

Sung Psalm Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A WARM WELCOME TO ONE AND ALL!

PLEASE SILENCE MOBILE PHONES!

FOR HEALTH & SAFETY REASONS, PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE FRONT CIRCLE OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH! DROP-OFFS ONLY.

WEEKLY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY, Year A COMMEMORATION	WEEKDAY, Year II READINGS & MASS INTENTION
22/2: First Sunday of Lent – purple	Mary Ann MacNeil, A (Vigil) All Parishioners (10am) Anton Slinger, D (12.15pm)
23/2: Lenten Feria – purple MASS IN THE SCHOOL, 9.10am	Lent Week 1, Mon Raymond Sweeney, A
24/2: Lenten Feria – purple	Lent Week 1, Tue James McElhinney, D
25/2: Lenten Feria – purple	Lent Week 1, Wed Philomena Cunningham, D
26/2: Lenten Feria – purple	Lent Week 1, Thu Joseph Colvin, D
27/2: Lenten Feria – purple FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF ABUSE IN THE CHURCH	Lent Week 1, Fri James Green, D
28/2: ---	---
1/3: Second Sunday of Lent – purple	Laurence Galvin, D (Vigil) All Parishioners (10am) Kathleen McMenemy, A (12.15pm)

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

NOTICES

MS. MAY HOLLAND, RIP (St. Mary's): Truly sorry to inform the parish of the death of May Holland. She passed away peacefully, and fortified with the Rites of the Church, at Haylie House early on 16th February 2026. May her kind and gentle soul rest in the peace and joy of Christ and may the Lord comfort and console all her relatives and friends. Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday, 3rd March at 10am, and thereafter to the Greenock Crematorium.

MASS IN THE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY: Parishioners are once again very welcome to attend this Mass. Since the school is not allowed to leave visitors unattended for safeguarding reasons, and since St. Mary's staff have to man the Largs Academy doors where parishioners are to gather, you are kindly requested not to arrive at the Academy door before 8.50am.

ANNUAL MASS FOR THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF ABUSE: Friday 27th February at 10am in St. Mary's church. I encourage wide participation in this Mass.

LITURGY THIS WEEK: This week is “full on” as regards the celebration of Lent. The main themes of Lent are: 1) experiencing the inner desert, our spiritual weakness and vulnerability, and the temptations of the Devil or spiritual combat; 2) repentance and conversion, the turn towards God and God's ways; 3) prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the three pillars of Lent; 4) the renewal of our baptismal life and promises. A good thing to do every day of Lent is to read and pray with the Gospel of the day, asking for the light of the Spirit to understand it more deeply as it applies to you personally.

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“JESUS WAS LED UP BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL” (Matthew 4:1)

A special kind of penitential atmosphere accompanies our Mass on Friday for the victims and survivors of abuse in the Church. Let us never forget! Let us never stop praying!

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE (St. Mary’s): Thursday 26th March at 2pm. There will be four priests to hear individual confessions. There will be extra confessions during Holy Week, on Monday 30th March and Wednesday 1st April, from 7-8pm in the evening.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (St. Mary’s): Every Friday at 7pm. I appeal for volunteers to lead them.

Date	Volunteers
27 February	Pass Keepers
6 March	Choir
13 March	
20 March	
27 March	
3 April	Fr. Peter

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (Our Lady’s, Millport): Fridays of Lent at 3pm, except Good Friday.

FIVE WOUNDS OF CHRIST & FIVE WEEKS OF LENT: I invite parishioners to meditate on one of the five wounds of Christ for each of the five full weeks of Lent, bar Holy Week itself. For this first week of Lent, you will find a leaflet at the back of the church with some material in relation to the **Wounded Feet of the Saviour**. If we bring our own wounds to those of the Lord, we will discover ever more deeply that “by his wounds we are healed” (1 Peter 2:24). May this Lent be a time for us all to experience deep healing through the wounds of our Saviour.

PRAYING FOR LAPSED CATHOLICS: People lapse from the practice of their faith and break their links with the Church for many reasons – often complex, often perfectly understandable from their point of view, at times as the result of apathy, doubt, uncertainty and even scandal and sin. Sometimes, they “just get out of the way of it” and find it hard to return. There can be a reticence or hesitation to return because they feel they don’t know what to say or do during Mass, and at times they feel that the ritual and prayer is just alien now to their lives. So, it will never be easy to “talk” someone into returning. We can only offer good example and occasionally, perhaps, a word of encouragement. Yet, there is one more thing we can, and must, do with perseverance: pray for them to find their way back to the Sacraments and Word of Life. We already offer our rosary every day before Mass for this very intention. When we pray together it has more “power” before God. So, why not consider joining those gathered for the rosary during Lent?

LENTEN EXERCISE SUGGESTIONS: Sometimes, it is hard to sustain one particular penance for the whole of Lent. We get tired or “bored” of it, such is our weakness. So, throughout Lent, I will offer daily suggestions for you, covering one act of prayer, one of fasting and one of almsgiving per day. Have a go!

Date	Pray	Fast	Alms
Mon 23	Eph 3:20-21	TV	Time
Tues 24	Tob 3:1-3	Gossip	Compassion
Wed 25	Wis 8:32-36	Sugar	Phone call
Thu 26	Mic 7:18-20	Bread	Letter
Fri 27	Prov 3:1-12	Meat	Rosary
Sat 28	1 Pet 4:1-2	Judging	Money
Sun 01	Rom 7:14-25	Internet	Forgiveness

MASS OF ENROLMENT: Our two catechumens from St. Mary’s, Laurie Gilchrist and James Sweeney, will be formally enrolled in the register of catechumens at a solemn Mass with Bishop

Frank this Sunday 22nd February at 3pm in St. Margaret’s Cathedral, Ayr. All other catechumens and candidates being received into the Church from across the Diocese will also be there. Please keep James and Laurie in your prayers on that day and throughout Lent as they approach the end of this part of their journey. Easter will soon be here!

PARISH LENT COURSE - “Exploring our Faith & Sycamore” Lent Course. – starts this Wednesday Feb. 25th, (and every Wednesday evening until March 25th) – 7.00pm to 8.30pm, in the Church Hall. A leaflet containing information about each week’s theme will be distributed with the Newsletter this weekend. Please add your name to the list on the table in the Porch or simply come along to any of the Wednesday Lent evenings. For more information, please contact Gordon McMillan Tel. 07977-403462, email gordonmcmillan7@gmail.com.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting at 7pm in St. John’s parish hall on Monday 23rd February.

MUSICAL EVENING at Brisbane Evangelical Church on Saturday 28th February. Doors, 6.30pm. Curtain, 7pm. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Entry is free.

MARY’S MEALS, LENTEN APPEAL (St. Mary’s): By way of exception, I have agreed to allow Mary’s Meals to make a Lenten appeal (in Largs only) on the weekend of 28th February – 1st March. A representative of the organization will address the congregation towards the end of the 6pm Vigil and 10am Masses. The collection will take the form of a **retiral collection**.

SCIAF: The annual Lenten second collection for SCIAF will take place on 14-15 March at all Masses in both parishes.

CHANA: We have received a request for toiletries from the homeless hostel, especially shampoo, shower gel and deodorant. Box available in St. Mary’s porch from Saturday 21st February until Sunday 8th March for any donations. Thank you.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURNS, BOTH PARISHES: For each parish, I have put on the website two files containing a summary of the income and expenditure for 2025 and some commentary on the same. For those who do not access the internet, some copies are in the church porch. Please don’t take these if you can use the internet.

INCOME JANUARY 2026

	Largs (Ch)	Largs (H)	Millport
Loose Plate	£3,224.58	---	£559.66
Bank Income	£3,153.00	£15.00	---
Contactless (C)	£45.26	£ 19.68	£108.24
C-Crib	£19.68	---	£29.52
C- Justice & Peace	---	---	£19.68
C-Building Fund	---	---	£7.86
Rentals	---	£180.00	---
Sunday Teas	---	£185.00	---
Hall Funds	---	£ 140.00	---
NAC Credit	---	---	£350.00
Flowers	---	---	£4.00
Candles	£ 285.92	---	---
SSVP	---	---	£10.70
St Margaret (CRIB)	£1,268.67	---	£ 16.00
Justice and Peace	£ 809.99	---	£120.50

“Let us fix our attention on the blood of Christ and recognise how precious it is to God his Father, since it was shed for our salvation and brought the grace of repentance to all the world” (Pope Clement I).