

EASTER SUNDAY, 5th APRIL 2026

HE EMPTIED HIMSELF (PHILIPPIANS 2:7) TO EMPTY HIS TOMB (JOHN 20:1-9)

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

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Parishes' Emails: largs@rcdg.org.uk
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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
Email: luigigiorgetti@yahoo.co.uk

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: Kevin Jamieson, Bernadette Crumlsh, Marion Morrison.

Anniversary of Death: James Docherty, Molly Carroll, Daniel Tierney, Margaret Gleeson, Edna Byrne, Edward Tuthill, Edward Boyce, Gerard McBride, Bill Rutherford, Philip Rutherford, Barney McLaughlin. **Sick:** James & Margaret Sherriff, the Dillon Family, Anne Comiskey, Linda Reynolds, Jimmy Sturman, 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, 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: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

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	WEEKDAY, Year II
COMMEMORATION	READINGS & MASS INTENTION
5/4: Easter Sunday – white	All Parishioners (10am) David McGill, D (12.15pm)
6/4: Easter Octave – white	Proper Gerard McBride, A
7/4: Easter Octave – white	Proper Fr. Ben, SI
8/4: Easter Octave – white	Proper Michael Leahy
9/4: Easter Octave – white	Proper Bro. Stephen, SI
10/4: Easter Octave – white	Proper Bernadette Crumlsh, RD
11/4: Easter Octave – white	---
12/4: Divine Mercy Sunday – white	Michael MacLean, A (6pm 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

MRS. BERNADETTE CRUMLISH (St. Mary's): I am sorry to announce the death of Mrs. Crumlsh in Inverclyde Royal Hospital on Wednesday, 25th March. May she rest in peace. Our prayers and condolences to all her immediate and extended family at this sad time. The date for the Requiem Mass could not be confirmed at the time of printing but will probably be Friday 10th April at 10am.

VOTE OF THANKS: To all those who helped prepare and execute the Sacred Liturgies of this Holy Week, I want to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation. Forgive me if I don't mention names or categories – I don't want to miss anyone out! Both parishes can be grateful to God and proud of their love and dedication to the Lord whose Mysteries we have celebrated with deep faith and devotion. THANK YOU!

MASS THIS WEEK: All Masses this week will be at 12 Noon except the funeral Mass for Mrs. Crumlsh, if confirmed, which will be at 10am. Mass preceded as usual by Exposition, from 11am, and Rosary for our lapsed Catholics at 11.40am. Although 9th April is the second Thursday in the month, Mass that day will be in St. Mary's, Largs, not in Millport. I will instead celebrate Mass in Millport on Thursday 16th April at 10am. Please also note that Mass this Wednesday morning is **not at 8am but at 12 Noon.**

HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS to Laurie Gilchrist and James Sweeney on their reception of all three Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The same to Moira Dalgetty for being received into full communion with the Catholic Church and receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. They have worked and prepared so hard and so it's a great joy to welcome

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them into our parish community of St. Mary's and, indeed, into the whole Catholic Church on earth, in heaven and in purgatory!

ANOTHER VOTE OF THANKS: It is only right that we give a very sincere vote of thanks to those parishioners who accompanied faithfully our newly baptized through their RCIA programme. First, Alana Reilly, whose zeal kick-started the RCIA again in our parish. But also, Rana Keane, John Tyler, Michael McGlynn and Ellen Mcewing, who assisted them throughout their preparation. I am sure there are many more in the parish who would be well able to take up this role in future RCIA seasons!

LITURGY THIS WEEK: This Easter Week is celebrated in the Liturgy as the **Octave of Easter**. Octave celebrations in Catholicism are eight-day extensions of major feasts, originating from early 4th-century practices begun under Constantine, such as the dedication of churches in Tyre and Jerusalem. They symbolize the "eighth day" of Christ's resurrection and mirror similar Jewish traditions, as many of our liturgical practices do. The main idea is to extend the "intensity" of the celebration, as if it were one long Day, due to its significance for our salvation and for the joy it brings. We are to dwell on such profound mysteries to the point of overriding any other feasts or commemorations which might fall on dates within the Octave. In its own way, the octave anticipates the Day of Days, the eternal Day, the life of Heaven itself.

NO FIRST MONDAY CONFESSIONS in St. Mary's, this coming Monday 6th April. Confessions next heard on Saturday evening, 11th April, from 5-5.45pm.

ADORATION (Millport): Sundays, 1.30-2.30pm & Wednesdays from 5-6pm.

THE PARISH SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: Any parishioner who is chronically housebound due to sickness or disability is more than welcome to ask for Holy Communion to be brought to them on a weekly basis, or less regularly if they prefer. Please contact me (Fr. Peter) directly (by phone or email) so that this can be arranged or, if you prefer, ask a friend to speak with me on your behalf. Also, should anyone in the same situation wish a visit from me, please let me know and I will be very happy to oblige. You may want confession and/or the sacrament of the sick, or you may just want to talk. Again, if you prefer to ask someone else to contact me on your behalf, that's fine, too. I encourage all parishioners to keep an eye on those who are housebound due to illness or disability and to encourage them to ask for Holy Communion to be brought to them or, if needed, to ask for a visit from myself. I pray daily and fervently for all our sick and housebound, and also for those who are lapsed, lost, lonely or otherwise challenged spiritually, morally or psychologically. We are all human and can suffer from these things, so let's do what we can through prayer and action to support one another.

My ongoing and sincerest gratitude to all our Eucharistic Ministers who take Communion to those at home and to the great work of the Legion of Mary and of the St. Vincent de Paul Society who visit the sick and poor on our behalf.

RCIA CATECHESIS POST-EASTER: The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) also provides that the newly baptized (known as "neophytes", meaning those who are "brand new" in the Christian life) should receive some deeper instruction on the mysteries of faith after Easter. This period of instruction is known as "mystagogy" (which means "leading through the mysteries"). It is a chance not only for the newly baptized but also for anyone else in the community who is baptized to reflect on their sacramental experience and deepen their understanding of the faith. The RCIA explains "This is a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in

deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the eucharist, and doing the works of charity" (n.234). The parish community, especially godparents and the priest, should give them thoughtful and friendly help.

To this end, in agreement with our neophytes, I have arranged for three moments of deeper catechesis on the following dates and themes: 1) Tuesday 21st April from 7-8pm in the hall, on Baptism; 2) Tuesday 19th May in the hall, on Confirmation; and 3) Tuesday 16th June, on the Eucharist. These evenings are open to all parishioners.

RCIA - CALLING NEW CANDIDATES & VOLUNTEERS – JOIN US NEXT YEAR: At the Easter Vigil, as everyone now knows, we will have welcomed a new cohort of RCIA candidates into the Church.

The RCIA programme has grown into a vibrant, supportive space of faith, learning, and community and we warmly invite anyone who feels a nudge in their heart to explore the Catholic faith, deepen their journey, or formally join the Church to get in touch. Whether you're young or young-at-heart, returning to faith or discovering it for the first time, you are very welcome to join us when we recommence in September.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us continue building on this momentum. We seek people with a variety of skills and experiences, from organisation and scheduling to group facilitation, hospitality, or even helping us take the programme to the next level. You don't need to be an expert. Just open, willing, and happy to support others on their faith journey. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your gifts and experience, to be part of something growing and meaningful and walk with others as they meet Christ in the Church.

If you're interested in becoming a candidate or feel called to be a volunteer, please speak to Fr. Peter or get in touch by email (address at the top of the bulletin). Let's continue to grow together as a parish community welcoming, supporting, and encouraging one another in faith.

PARISHIONER'S BLOG ON SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI: St. Mary's parishioner, Sue Burnside, has just had a blog published on The Franciscan Publishing Company website. Sue hopes to publish a book on St. Francis at some point in the future. Here is the link: <https://www.franciscanpublishing.com/wandering-with-saint-francis-of-assisi-in-gubbio/>

CHAT 'N' DO: Recommences Wednesday 8th April.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP: Recommences Thursday 16th April.

EASTER DAWN

*He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.*

Malcolm Guite.