



St John the Evangelist
Stevenson

29th March 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year A



Our Lady Star of the Sea
Saltcoats

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Sr Marie Monique & Sr Ursula: Pastoral Assistants to the Three Towns
Canon Matt McManus (Retired)

COVID—19

Greetings everyone

As a result of the Coronavirus the decision has been taken by the Bishops of Scotland in line with Government advice that all public worship should cease. I wish to remind you that I say private Mass each day for people of our parishes and their intentions. I hope to use bulletin/information sheet to provide the Sunday readings that people can sit quietly and reflect on them.

Funeral Masses have now been suspended.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH. Catholics in China. We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

THE VIRUS - POPE FRANCIS. TUESDAY - HE WARNED ABOUT SLOTH, SADNESS AND COMPLAINING, Pope Francis warned Christians to avoid living in a "fog" of sadness, sloth, and complaining, instead of rejoicing in the spiritual healing they have received from Christ. There are "many Christians who live this state of sloth, unable to do anything but complain about everything," the pope said at Mass in the Vatican's Santa Marta guesthouse on 24th March. "Sloth is a poison, it is a fog that surrounds the soul and does not let it live," he continued. "It's also a drug, because if you taste it often, you like it. And you end up a 'sad-addict,' a 'sloth-addict.'" Francis added that sloth is a "fairly usual sin among us," one which the devil "can use to annihilate our spiritual life as well as our life as people."

Daily Prayer Pray-as-you-go.org. A Lenten Retreat <https://www.sacredspace.ie/lenten-retreat-2020>



ST CORONA. By Master of Palazzo Venezia Madonna (Active 1340 - About 1360) via Wikipedia
The pandemic caused by the Corona virus has boosted interest in St Corona, who is widely venerated as the saint to turn to in times of pestilence and violent storms in northern Italy, Austria and southern Germany, where St Corona churches and chapels abound and there are several St Corona pilgrimages. According to legend, she was a 16-year-old Christian who was martyred for her faith in Syria in the second century. According to legend, she stood up publicly for a Roman soldier who was being tortured because he had converted to Christianity and died a horrible death as a consequence. She was tied to two palm trunks that had been bent to the ground and when they whipped back up her body was torn to pieces. Her feast day is 14 May. St Corona's main relics are in the Basilica of Saints Victor and Corona in Feltre, a hill town in the province of Belluno in the Veneto region in northern Italy, one of the first regions to be cordoned off due to the Corona pandemic. St Corona is the patron saint of Belluno-Feltre. **The Tablet**

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Anniversary: Norah McCutcheon, Kirstene Abercrombie, Tommy Brennan (2nd), Agnes Forbes, John Hamilton and Wullie Hamilton.

Recently Deceased: Philip Burns, Ann Marie Dickie, Margaret Peacey (Oxford), Louise Barr and Lettie Anderson.

Masses are celebrated also by Fr Gerard McCabe plus Retired Priests, Missio Scotland (Pontifical Mission Societies).

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK. 5th March 2020; Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:



For all the sick in our parishes*

Those who have an anniversary: Kirstene Abercrombie, Tommy Brennan (2nd), Agnes Forbes, John Hamilton, Wullie Hamilton, John Duncan, Jim Lynn, Annie McKeever and Michael Reilly (Ardrossan).

Those who have died recently: Philip Burns, Margaret Peacey (Oxford), Cathy Meechan, Brendan Fitzpatrick, Lettie Anderson, Fiona White, Ann Marie Dickie, Maureen Morrison, Bert Anderson (Paisley), Gerry Swan, Ian Neal, John McLaughlin (Troon), David Love, Louise Barr, Gerard Boyle and Maria Ho.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS. BOTH PARISHES HAVE NO INCOME AT THE PRESENT TIME EXCEPT STANDING ORDERS. PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND. IF YOU WISH TO PAY THROUGH STANDING ORDER PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.

PARISH HALLS. Closed until further notice.

FOOD BANK, STEVENSTON AND SALTCOATS. Phone the Three Towns Hub 9am-1pm 01294 475900. Groceries will be delivered to your house.

BULLETIN NOTICES. If you wish anything in the parish bulletin please contact Lorna at St Mary's parish office on 463461 or email saltcoats@gallowaydiocese.org.uk by Thursday morning.

WEST COAST FURNITURE BANK. This is a charity which distributes donated household items to families in need. An estimated 40% of the donations have come from readers of this bulletin. George would like to thank everyone for their generosity. The contact number is 07576232969.

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME. North Ayrshire Council is assisting EU, EEA and Swiss citizens to apply for Settled Status which will allow you to stay in the UK after 31st December 2020. Full details on how to apply can be found at the back of both churches or at: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/eu-settlement-scheme.aspx>. Information leaflets are available.

***The new terms of the Data Protection Regulation prevent us from publishing the names of the sick either in electronic form or in paper form in the bulletin. A new folder containing the names of the sick will be brought through the Church in the offertory procession each week so that these people are included in our prayers. Please inform the parish office in writing of any names to be either included or taken out of this list.**

WEDNESDAY - HE PRAYED FOR GOD'S MERCY. Pope Francis led Christians around the world on Wednesday in praying an Our Father to ask God's mercy during the coronavirus pandemic, which is causing the suffering and death of many people. "As confident children we turn to the Father. We do it every day, several times a day; but right now, we want to beg mercy for humanity severely tested by the coronavirus pandemic," the Pope said before leading the prayer. Speaking via video livestream from the library of the Vatican's apostolic palace, Francis noted that Christians are praying "together, Christians of every church and community, of every tradition, from every age, language and nation." *Catholic News Agency.*

PEACE - Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty. St. Oscar Romero who was assassinated 24th March 1980 in San Salvador

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

The Regulation came into force on Friday 25th May 2018, and gives individuals greater rights and control over the use of their personal information. Your privacy is important to the Parish Communities of St. John's and St. Mary's. We use the personal data, provided by you for Pastoral support and the administration of weekly collections. The information is held securely and confidentially in electronic or paper format. We will not share this information with third parties without your prior consent. A fuller Privacy Notice is now available on the Diocesan website. www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy-and-gdpr

First Reading Ezekiel**37:12-14**

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord God who speaks.

The Word of the Lord**PSALM****R/ With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness; for this we revere you.
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My Soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord).
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Second Reading Romans**8:8-11**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord**Gospel John****11:3-7.17-27.33-45**

The sisters, Martha and Mary, sent this message to Jesus, "Lord, the man you love is ill." On receiving the message, Jesus said, "This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea." On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you." "Your brother," said Jesus to her "will rise again." Martha said, "I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said: "I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she said, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world." Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, "Where have you put him?" They said, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept; and the Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" But there were some who remarked, "He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?" Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, "Take the stone away." Martha said to him, "Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day." Jesus replied, "Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: "Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I know indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me." When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, "Lazarus, here! Come out!" The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, let him go free." Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

1. In the first reading from Ezekiel, God tells the people, 'I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves'. What are the areas in your own life in need of God's life-giving touch?
2. Through Ezekiel, God proclaims, 'you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this'. What promises of God do you hold fast to you in your life?
3. In today's Gospel we read our shortest Bible verse in English, 'Jesus wept'. Why was it important for the Gospel writer to include this detail? Does it affect your relationship with Jesus knowing he experienced human emotions?
4. Jesus reveals to Martha, 'I am the resurrection and the life'. How do you interpret these words?

Neighbouring Parishes:**Father Duncan McVicar, St Peter's, Ardrossan 464063. Father Gerard Magee, St Winin's, Kilwinning 552276.****RC Chaplain at Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals is Deacon Bill Corbett 01292 521208****Going into Hospital? Ask Canon Poland for the Anointing of the Sick before you are admitted.****Ask the ward Sister to let Deacon Corbett know you are admitted and would appreciate a routine visit.****In an emergency situation ask the nurse on duty for the priest-on-call to be paged.**

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PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS - MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Church in Scotland is concerned with the lives, safety, wholeness and well-being of each individual person within God's purpose for everyone. It seeks to safeguard the welfare of people of all ages who are involved in whatever capacity with the Church and its organisations. As a Church community, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us, ordained, professed, paid and voluntary members, to work together to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect of children, young people and vulnerable adults.