



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

10 SEPTEMBER 2017: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33: 7-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94 (95): 1-2, 6-9

2nd Reading: Romans 13: 8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 10 September	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 12 September	Tuesday in the Twenty-Third Week of the Year	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 13 September	Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 14 September	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 17 September	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Missio Appeal Franciscan Missionaries of Mary	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Graced to Heal Wounds

In general, British society believes it's good to be nice. And indeed, this does enable a remarkably diverse population to coexist peacefully and, what's more, form friendships across what might elsewhere be considered insurmountable cultural barriers. So two of today's readings can be hard for us to hear. We're not accustomed to calling people wicked to their faces, whatever God may tell Ezekiel to do; and we prefer to avoid the sort of face-to-face confrontation as Jesus seems to be advocating. In view of this, "Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love", from the Second Reading, is a lot more welcome.

A lot of factors can be at work in our aversion to confrontation. Leaving aside obvious cultural conditioning, there can be a healthy wish to avoid judging others (cf. Matthew 7:1, Luke 6:37). Supposing I'm the one in the wrong? We can also fear rejection - if we have a difference with a friend, isn't it better to say nothing for the sake of the friendship? Or even with someone who's not a friend, just to 'keep the peace'? The trouble, of course, is that papering over the cracks like this seldom works. It usually leads to misunderstanding and, at some point, an explosion. The other person may be genuinely unaware that he or she had done anything wrong, and feel aggrieved that the matter wasn't raised earlier.

In particular, we can easily be tempted to complain about the person to everyone else while staying 'nice' to him or her... Not only is this hypocritical, but sooner or later it will get back to the person concerned.

Jesus' teaching - which includes taking the matter beyond having it out one to one, to calling witnesses if necessary - is actually about keeping the community of the Church united, living in true peace, not just in the absence of conflict. Indeed, superficial niceness can too easily become a cover for indifference, dishonesty and downright cruelty.

In fact, as Christians we should be prepared to have it out with others where we feel sinned against, precisely because we love them, and would want them to do the same for us. This is what's behind the seemingly harsh words of the Lord to Ezekiel. Sin is anything that breaks the bonds of love, which divides us within ourselves as well as divides us from God and from others. Salvation is God's gift of healing and raising up, of making whole again what was broken. In any situation of conflict, if we pray to the Holy Spirit for the gift to speak and hear the truth, we'll find ourselves graced to heal wounds - starting with our own.

(Fr Dominic White, OP)

GENERAL NEWS

Saturday 23 September: "Jesus the Healer" – a Day of Recollection led by Fr Domenico, at St Mary's, Beaulieu.

The day begins at 10.30am, and includes: Holy Mass; Talk; Group Discussion; Lunch; Exposition and Adoration; and Sacrament of Confession. The day concludes with Benediction at 2.30pm. See the poster and parish website for details!

Saturday 7 October: "A Day with Pope John Paul II", in Honour of Our Lady of the Rosary – at St Mary's Church, High Street Beaulieu (IV4 7AU). The programme for this day, which is organised for young people, is as follows (see the poster):

10.00 am: Arrival
10.30 am: Rosary in honour of Our Lady
11.00 am: Mass of Our Lady of the Rosary
12 noon: Packed lunch
1.00 pm: Group discussions
1.30pm: Talent Show
2.15 pm: Snack / Play Time
2.45 pm: Exposition / Adoration
3.00 pm: Divine Mercy devotion / Benediction
3.30 pm: Departure

PARISH NEWS

St Columba's Mothers and Toddlers Group – this group will be starting after the half-term holidays, on **Monday 23 October onwards, from 9.30am-11.30am**. The group is looking for the following items; if you have any of these at home, we would be delighted to receive them! – a slide, small trikes, baby buggies / prams, baby seats and mats, musical instruments, and any toys that people feel will be useful. If you would like to donate items, or help in any way with this group, please speak to Fr Domenico or to Clare Greig after Sunday Mass, or email at clareoke@yahoo.com.

"Faith Matters!" – a group for teenagers (post-Confirmation onwards). A forum to air your views, a supportive environment to ask your questions on ANY aspect of Church teaching, an opportunity to discuss some of the important issues affecting young people today, a welcoming place to come together, meet other teenagers, and make new friends over food and a chat. A possible format would be as follows: a short presentation / discussion / film /etc., then a bite to eat (an hour to an hour-and-a-half max). We are also planning days out and social events, involving youngsters from parishes throughout the Deanery, with talks by outside speakers. But.. this group can only work if there is sufficient interest (!), so.. if you are a teenager, and would like to be involved in this group – or if you are a parent and would like to assist in any way – please do speak to Fr Domenico or e-mail him at: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com.

Sacrament of Confirmation, 2018: Any young person who would like to be considered for the Confirmation preparation class should speak to Fr Domenico, Helen, or Ewen, to register their interest, in order to give us an idea of numbers.

Thank you! – to generous benefactors who recently donated **£100 to our Building Fund**. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Faith in Film Evening: Wednesday 13 September, from 7.00pm: *Courageous* – As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes and their partners willingly stand up to the worst the world can offer, yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood. While they consistently give their best on the job, they quickly discover that their children are beginning to drift further away from them. When tragedy hits home, these men are left with a newfound urgency to renew their faith and reach out to their own children. Will they be able to find a way to serve and protect those who are most dear to them? Certificate: 12 (c. 120 minutes).

FIRs: The Friends in Retirement group will start their new session of meetings on **Thursday 14 September 2-4pm in the Meeting room**. Join us for a friendly chat, tea and biscuits. All welcome.

Training for Altar Servers, new and old! – Our first meeting for NEW Servers will take place on **Thursday 14 September, from 5.00pm-5.30pm**. All NEW would-be Servers are encouraged to attend this first meeting! Please speak to Fr Domenico beforehand to register your interest. Meanwhile, further training for our CURRENT group of Servers will also begin on **Thursday 14 September, from 5.30pm-6.00pm**. Please speak to Fr Domenico if you are unable to attend.

Friday 22 – Sunday 24 September: "Filled to Overflowing" – Faith Formators' Retreat and Workshops, held at St Columba's, Culloden. See the poster on the noticeboards. For further details, please e-mail ogilvie@rcda.scot, or phone 01343 547806.

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 12 September – Mary and Marie. Anyone offering to help to keep the church nice and clean only needs to give one hour a month. See Don for details.

"90 Club": Next Draw – Sunday 24 September: There's plenty of time to get a ticket – only £2 a month! All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO – Next eyes down: Friday 6 October at 7.00pm! Come and take part in a fun-filled family evening. Refreshments provided during the interval! Items to give as prizes are always required (chocolates, wine, spirits, vouchers, toiletries, stationery, etc.). Your support is much appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Amelia & John Drew + Rose Corbett + Murray Mackay + Peter Simpson

Anniversaries: + Annie MacLeod + Brian O'Connell + Dr. Sally McEwen +