



St. Columba's, Culloden

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 Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

11TH SEPTEMBER 2016

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14

Psalm: Ps 50: 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-10

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 11 September	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 13 September	Memorial of St John Chrysostom	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 14 September	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 15 September	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows	Mass	7.30pm
Sunday 18 September	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Seeking the Lost

The episode in today's First Reading has been called "Israel's original sin." Freed from bondage, born as a people of God in the covenant at Sinai, Israel turned aside from His ways, fell to worshipping a golden calf. Moses implores God's mercy, as Jesus will later intercede for the whole human race, as He still pleads for sinners at God's right hand and through the ministry of the Church.

Israel's sin is the sin of the world. It is your sin and mine. Ransomed from death and made His children in Baptism, we fall prey to the idols of this world. We remain a "stiff-necked people," resisting His will for us like an ox refuses the plowman's yoke (see Jeremiah 7:26).

Like Israel, in our sin we push God away, reject our divine sonship. Once He called us "my people" (see Exodus 3:10; 6:7). But our sin makes us "no people," people He should, in justice, disown (see Deuteronomy 32:21; 1 Peter 2:10).

Yet in His mercy, He is faithful to the covenant He swore by His own self in Jesus. In Jesus, God comes to Israel and to each of us—as a shepherd to seek the lost (see Ezekiel 34:11-16), to carry us

back to the heavenly feast, the perpetual heritage promised long ago to Abraham's children.

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," Paul cries in today's Second Reading. These are the happiest words the world has ever known. Because of Jesus, as Paul himself can testify, even the blasphemer and persecutor can seek His mercy. As the sinners do in today's Gospel, we draw near to listen to Him. In this Eucharist, we bring Him the

acceptable sacrifice we sing of in today's Psalm—our hearts, humbled and contrite.

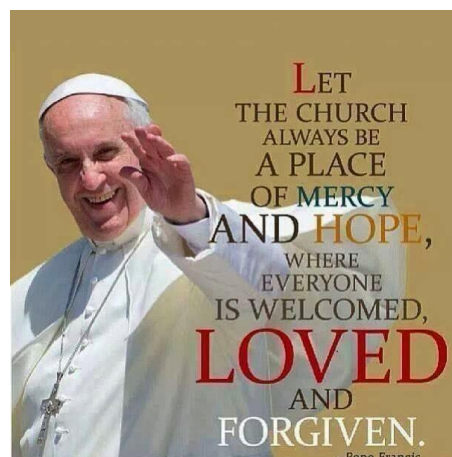
In the company of His angels and saints, we rejoice that He has wiped out our offence, celebrate with Him—that we have turned from the evil way that we might live (see Ezekiel 18:23).

(Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"Mercy is the true force that can save man and the world from the 'cancer' that is sin, moral evil, spiritual evil. Only love fills the void, the negative chasms that evil opens in hearts and in history. Only love can do this, and this is God's joy!"

(Angelus address, 15 September 2013)



GENERAL NEWS

40 Days for Life: if you sometimes feel helpless in the face of the advance of the culture of death, then you may be interested in a major new prayer initiative. Rose Docherty (Campaign Director, Glasgow) of 40 Days for Life is giving a presentation at Bishop's House, Aberdeen, on **Wednesday 14 September at 7.00pm**. All are welcome. Please e-mail Deacon Tony Schmitz at: tony.schmitz@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Uplifting Walks in Inverness! – Join us on **Saturday 17 September**, as we explore the Caledonian Canal to the locks at Dochgarroch. Everyone is most welcome! To register, and to get more information, please contact Sabrina at sabrina@rediscovered.me, or visit the following website: upliftingwalks.wordpress.com.

Harvest Festival: Thanksgiving Party on Saturday 24 September at 7.00pm, in St Mary's Church Hall. This is a great opportunity to experience a Harvest Thanksgiving celebration, and to join with our Polish and European congregations. All nationalities most welcome for this fundraising event at St Mary's. Live music presented by *The Brothers*, along with a taste of traditional Polish harvest. 'Bring your own bottle'. Entertainment and light buffet included in the price of £10 ticket board. Reserve your tickets from Deacon Andrew Niski in the Parish Office (01463 233519).

Youth Ministry Formation Weekend at Kilcoy Castle! – Thursday to Sunday, 22-25 September 2016. Accommodation is available for this weekend, which includes presentations by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB, the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, and youth ministers from the United States. The weekend will conclude with the celebration of Holy Mass. If interested, please contact Sister Christiana at: ogilvie@dioceseofaberdeen.org, or call 07938 729895.

PARISH NEWS

Day Workshop for Catechists ('old' and 'new'), **youth ministers**, and those involved in **Children's Liturgy** and **Sacramental Preparation – Saturday 24 September at St Columba's, 9.30am-4.30pm**. Please do come along and support this important event.

Faith in Film returns! - Wednesday 19 October, from 7.00pm: *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. This is a timeless story of innocence lost and humanity found, set amidst the horrors of the Holocaust in World War II. *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* tells the story of eight-year-old Bruno. Bored and restless in his new home, he ignores his mother and sets off on an adventure in the woods. Soon, he meets a young boy, and a surprising friendship develops. Based on the best-selling novel by John Boyne, this is a remarkable and inspiring story about the power of the human spirit that will capture your heart and engage your mind. Certificate: 12 (c. 90 minutes).

Morning of Renewal for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – Saturday 19 November, 10.00am – 1.00pm. This is an opportunity for ALL Readers and Extraordinary Ministers – **from St Columba's and further afield** – to come together for a morning of reflection and renewal. There will be several short

presentations, time for prayer, and Question-and-Answer Sessions. Please spread the word.

Plans for the new Parish House! – the plans for the sale of the plots of land, and for the subsequent construction of the Parish House, are **available in the Lady Chapel after Mass today**. Why not take a moment to pop in and have a look at them?

Church cleaning – Tuesday 20 Sept: Mary and Marie.

"90 Club": next Prize-Winning Draw will be held on **Sunday 25 September**. Good luck to all who have a number! There are a few tickets still available; £2.00 monthly. Please ask Don.

PRIZE BINGO – FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER!! 'Eyes down' at 7.00pm. Items to give out as prizes are always needed (ten single-line prizes; ten 'full house' prizes; plus Raffle prizes). The prizes box is almost empty, can you help with items to fill it? If you are unsure what would be useful ask Don. Many thanks to all who donated such marvellous gifts. Your help is crucial in making this fundraiser such a success for the parish.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray + Rhona MacGregor +

Anniversaries: + Dr. Sally MacEwen + Annie MacLeod + Brian O'Connell + Janet MacDonald + Sheena McCulloch +

GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

Inverness Catenian Circle meet on the Second Monday of every month, at 7.30pm (**next meeting: 12 September**). The meeting is followed by dinner at the Craigmorie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045). Visit www.catenians.co.uk.

The Knights of St Columba meets on the first Monday of every month in the Marian Room at St. Mary's, at 7.30 pm (**next meeting: 3 October**): contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Visit www.ksc.org.uk.

St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) meets every fortnight, on Sundays, in the Marian Room at St Mary's, at 10.00 am (**next meeting: 18 September**). Requests for assistance and support can be made by contacting any SVP member or by dropping a note in a SVP collection box. Visit www.svp.org.uk.

The St Mary's Parent & Toddler Group meets on Wednesdays in the Marian Room, 11.00am – 2.45pm.

The St Ninian's Parent & Toddler Group is now meeting again. Enquiries to Jenny Wilson, tel. 07779 003434.