



St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW

Tel: (01463) 794619 / (01463) 233519

E-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com

Website: www.stcolumbasculloden.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden

Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

12 NOVEMBER 2017:
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
~ REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ~

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Wisdom 6: 12 – 16

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62 (63): 2-8

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 12 November	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR ✠ REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ✠ Second Collection: Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 14 November	Tuesday of Week 32 in Ordinary Time	<u>NO MASS</u>	-
Wednesday 15 November	Wednesday of Week 32 in Ordinary Time	<u>NO MASS</u>	-
Thursday 16 November	Feast of St Margaret of Scotland	<u>NO MASS</u>	-
Sunday 19 November	THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - WORLD DAY OF THE POOR - Second Collection: Mary's Meals	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Remembrance Sunday: A Reflection

I doubt whether those who signed the Armistice in 1918, in a railway carriage in a French forest, could possibly have imagined the development of such a significant annual and global act of remembrance. After all, the colossal loss of life led many to believe that the Great War would be the war to end them all.

But sadly we didn't listen. Tragically history has kept repeating itself. So today we tend to remember not just those who died in that war but in all other conflicts since.

These occasions go beyond remembering the generous sacrifice of armed forces. Our own mortality is captured by them, those we have loved and let go are recognised, the dashed hopes and shattered dreams we once entertained are recalled.

The two-minute silence is about more than the horrors of war and the ultimate price for freedom. This pause in a hectic world is a symbol of our spiritual need to be still; the formal silence, a prompt to the memory which helps us mourn our losses; and the poppy we wear, among other things, an acknowledgement of the limitations of human existence.

And there is more to us than remembrancers. We are creatures of hope who long to hear the music of the future. We understand that simply to recall the past is not necessarily to deal with it. Things need to change. The world is still not free of tyrants and despots, our lives are still broken. And we ache for the day when God's new day will dawn.

So we reach out beyond our finite horizons to connect with the God whose everlasting Kingdom of justice and peace

will come. We, whose days are like the momentary splendour of a flower, are invited to know the God who is the eternal home of all those who trust Him.

In Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, there's a gravestone with a simple inscription on it. "I want to stand where you are standing."

Underneath is the story of an incident that occurred in the American Civil War. A Yankee soldier, only 19 years of age, was part of a firing squad, assigned to execute a man for treason. As he closed one eye and took aim down the barrel of his gun, he was horrified to see that he knew the man he was about to shoot. He lowered his gun, walked over to his captain and said: "I can't do it. That man has a wife and children at home. If I shoot him I not only end his life, but I end theirs too. I will make his wife a widow and I'll be robbing the children of a father. I can't do it."

So after a discussion they came up with a plan. The young soldier could take the condemned man's place. The 19-year-old Yankee marched up to the Confederate captive and said simply, "I want to stand where you are standing." The captive took off his blindfold and walked away, back to his wife, his family, his life. But his freedom came at great cost to another: the young man who had willingly chosen to die in his place.

That's how through the death of His Son on the cross, God deals with our sin. Jesus takes our place. He is our substitute.

So as we remember the fallen and with them our own mortality, we remember that in Christ, the self-giving God has remembered us, but not our sin. [Peter Baker – adapted]

GENERAL NEWS

Tuesday 21 November: Gabriel Society – “The Media and the Catholic Press”. To be held in the Marian Room, at 32 Huntly Street, beginning at 7.00pm. All welcome!

Saturday 25 November: St Andrew's Night Dance – Live music & dance featuring Scottish & Polish tunes from **The Brothers Band** and **DJ Coli** on **Saturday 25 November from 8.00pm until 2.00am**, in the St. Mary's Church Hall. Food will be available, but please feel free to take along something to eat and drink (no bar). Ticket prices £15. Tickets from Parish Office ask for PJ - 01463 233519. Reserve your tickets for this popular St. Andrew's event.

PARISH NEWS

World Day of the Poor: Sunday 19 November: The first World Day of the Poor will be observed in the universal Church next week, on Sunday 19 November 2017 at the request of Pope Francis. At the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Holy Father wanted to offer the Church a World Day of the Poor, “so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need.” The World Day of the Poor message is entitled, “Let us love, not with words but with deeds”. In the message Pope Francis invites “the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity.” How can we respond to Pope Francis' call? Each of us might take time to pray and reflect on this question, and consider various practical initiatives which could be undertaken, at both parish and diocesan level, to alleviate “the cry of the poor”. **Our Second Collection next week will be for Mary's Meals.**

Would you like to get involved in St Columba's Mothers and Toddlers Group? The group, which meets **every Monday, from 9.30am-11.30am**, is looking for volunteers to assist on an informal basis (as and when you can make it). Can you help with any of the following?: arts and crafts; music time; help with snacks and tea and coffee. If you would like to get involved, please contact Clare or Sara at: clareoke@yahoo.com, or sara@culloden.net.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR NOVEMBER start **this week** on Thursdays 16th, 23rd and 30th, from 5 to 5.30pm. Four young people have already signed up. If you are in S1 or above and would like to join us please come along or speak to Helen or Ewen.

Lighting up St Columba's: #RedWednesday – This autumn, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is asking us to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians throughout the world, and with all who suffer for their peacefully-held beliefs. ACN will be holding a **week of events from 19 – 26 November, with #RedWednesday as the highlight on Wednesday 22 November**. Red is the Christian colour of martyrdom. Christians are the most persecuted faith group in today's world, and #RedWednesday will honour all Christians who suffer and die for their faithfulness to Christ's message of peace and love, and will shine a light on Christian persecution, but will also highlight the injustices perpetrated against other faith groups. To mark our own solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters, St Columba's will be floodlit red during the month of November. For details, please go online to this website: <https://acnuk.org/campaign/redwednesday/>

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday 9 December, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Santa has been notified, and has promised us that he will come to visit St Columba's! There will be music, games, surprises, and much more! All children very welcome!

ST COLUMBA'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Wednesday 13 December, 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Back by popular demand – a date for your diaries! As per last year, we will be hosting a service of your favourite Christmas carols, with community singing (that means you!) together with seasonal Scripture readings, with festive food and drink provided (non-alcoholic mulled wine, mince pies, and other goodies). We have invited special guests to join us!! Donations at the door will be gratefully accepted – suggested offerings are: £5 for adults; kids go free! All proceeds go towards our Building Fund. Why not invite some friends and come along? Spread a little festive cheer!

“CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS” returns to St Columba's **on Wednesday 22 November at 7.00pm**, as we look at the figure of **ST CATHERINE OF SIENA (‘The Mystic’)**. Is the physical world all there is? Is science the only path to ascertaining truth? St. Catherine of Siena witnesses to a higher world beyond the material. Though the fourteenth century mystic never studied theology, and never learned how to read or write, her life constitutes a powerful challenge to the flattened-out secularism of our time. Come and join us as we learn about this fascinating woman!

Cleaning Team: Monday 12 November, at 4.00pm – **only Don. Can anyone help him?** The more cleaners the quicker the job is done. An hour of your time is all we ask!

“90 Club” – NEXT DRAW Sunday 26 November: There are still a few numbers left; only £2 monthly. Please ask Don for details.

Prize Bingo: our next fun-filled fundraiser evening will take place on **Friday 1 December at 7.00pm**. All welcome! Come and take part in a family evening. Refreshments provided during the interval! Items to give as prizes are always required items to give as prizes always needed (we are particularly short of chocolates, and of wines and spirits; we'd also appreciate smelly candles, toiletries, gift vouchers, tins of sweets/biscuits...). Thank you for all your support of this fund-raiser.

Annual Christmas Hamper Draw: the hamper raffle is being prepared, and tickets will be on sale soon. Items are needed to fill our hamper; can you help?

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

Anniversaries: + Alex MacDonald + Pat Grout + Margaret Anne Welsh + Michael and Manji Dannish + Jack Johnstone