



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 ~

**15 JANUARY 2017:
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A**

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6

Psalm: Ps 39 (40): 2, 4, 7-10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3

Gospel: John 1: 29-34

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 15 January	SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 17 January	Memorial of St Anthony Abbot	Evening Prayer Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 18 January	Wednesday in the Second Week of the Year	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 19 January	Thursday in the Second Week of the Year	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 22 January 2017	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: "I Come To Do Your Will"

These words are taken from today's responsorial psalm. They form a bridge between the First Reading and the Gospel. In the First Reading, we are told about God choosing and preparing a very, very special servant for Himself. He would be a light to the nations and would bring the Lord's salvation to the ends of the earth. That prophecy was fulfilled in Christ. At His baptism the Father recognised Jesus as His beloved Son or Servant, and in the power of the Spirit He began to preach the Kingdom of God. The words, **'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will'** sum up Christ's life-long openness and obedience to his Father's will. This would take Him to Gethsemane and the cross.

Today's Gospel is about John the Baptist's mission - to prepare the way of the Lord, firstly by urging the people to repent, then by pointing out Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. Finally, John would prepare Jesus Himself for His mission by baptizing Him. John realized that his personal mission was limited. Having done what God asked of him he was prepared to slip into the background so that Jesus could take centre stage.

'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will' sums up what should be our response to our Christian vocation. At our baptism God calls each one of us to serve Him and our neighbour. There are many ways in which we can do that. For most of us it will be as married or single lay people. Here also there are many possibilities. God will call others to serve Him in the priesthood or religious life. Each of us will have a particular and limited role in cooperating with God's plan for the salvation to the world.

But sometimes it is very difficult for us to know what God is asking of us. With the young Samuel we may say, **'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'** Rarely do people hear a

voice from heaven telling them what God wants them to do. Instead, God helps us make up our minds through prayerful thought and inquiry. Wise advice, or someone simply acting as a sounding board, can be of great assistance.

Most of us experience the stretched-out anguish of being uncertain what God is asking of us. Long and distressing though this uncertainty may, it may be an essential part of God's plan for us during that particular time. He wants us to learn to wait on the Lord and to learn to be patient with Him and ourselves. If so, we will need a great deal of trust to believe God knows what He's doing, even if we don't. In this, and in all else, we should pray, **'Thy will be done,'** as we place ourselves in God's hands. It's mighty hard to say and really mean such a prayer. All too often we attempt to make God our servant, rather than our being His - as though we could manipulate Him into doing our will, rather than our being set on doing His.

When we say, **'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will'** we make ourselves open to God, willing to listen to Him, eager to do His will. We should not be like the two brothers in one of the parables. One enthusiastically agreed to do whatever his father asked of him, and yet didn't get round to obeying him. The other brother, though at first reluctant to obey, eventually did so. Although not ideal, he was certainly better than the brother who was simply full of empty good intentions. But we are called to say and mean, **'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will'** - come what may. Like the Blessed Virgin Mary each one of us is called to say, **"Behold the handmaid or manservant of the Lord. Be it done to me according to your word."** God enables us to find fulfilment precisely in making His will our own.

(Fr. Isidore Clarke, OP)

GENERAL NEWS

Relics of St Maximilian Kolbe: Relics of the Polish Franciscan saint Maximilian Kolbe are coming to the Diocese later this week. The schedule is as follows:

Friday 20 January 2017

King's College Chapel, Aberdeen University

6.00pm: Celebration in honour of St Maximilian Kolbe, followed by Mass and veneration of his relics.

Saturday 21 January 2017

Pluscarden Abbey

9.00am: Mass, followed by veneration of the relics.

11.00am: Celebration in honour of St Maximilian Kolbe, with an opportunity to venerate his relics.

12.40pm: Prayer during the Day.

St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen

4.00pm: Celebration in honour of St Maximilian Kolbe, with an opportunity to venerate his relics.

7.00pm: Mass

Sunday 22 January 2017

St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen

8.00am: Mass, followed by veneration of the relics.

9.30am: Mass in Polish, followed by veneration of the relics.

11.15am: Mass. Veneration of the relics until 3.00pm.

3.00pm: Mass in Polish, followed by veneration of the relics.

King's College Chapel, Aberdeen University

6.30pm: Mass, followed by veneration of the relics.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 7–14 July 2017:

this year, the Diocesan pilgrimage will be to Lourdes. The pilgrimage, organised by Tangney Tours, will be led by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB. Accommodation will be in the 4-star hotel Mediterranee. The price is **£767 per person**, which includes: flights, hotel transfers, full board accommodation, taxes. There is a **single room supplement of £161**. Travel insurance: £30 per person. For further information and a booking form, please contact Deacon John Wire, via e-mail: jj.wire@btinternet.com, or telephone 07711 847582.

PARISH NEWS

“CATHOLICISM” is coming to St Columba's!! From Wednesday 1 February, and throughout Lent, we will be journeying around the world, deep into our Catholic Faith, with the acclaimed DVD study series “Catholicism”. With creator and host Bishop Robert Barron, you will learn *what* Catholics believe and *why*, while being immersed in the art, architecture,

literature, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition. The Catholicism Faith Formation Programme brings the beauty, goodness and truth of the Church to life so that you can better understand and share your faith. This study programme is open to everyone, regardless of age and parish! **If you would like to attend, e-mail stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com to register your interest, and to give us an idea of numbers.** Book your place on Wednesdays in Lent now!

To whet your appetite, here is a summary of **Episode 1, entitled “Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God Made Man”**: The strange and dangerous words of Jesus of Nazareth set up a drama that will culminate in a surprising battle between two kings, and in the wake of this conflict, an empire will be defeated – and the world will be changed. Bishop Robert Barron illuminates and explains the conviction of the Catholic Faith that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah, and the revelation of God become man. He shows how Jesus fulfills the four tasks of the Messiah, according to the Old and New Testaments, and how the living legacy of Christ, God and Messiah, is proclaimed by the Church. Join Bishop Barron as he addresses some of the most controversial questions about the life and identity of Jesus Christ and travels through the mysterious and sacred places of the Holy Land of Israel and the eternal city of Rome.

Sick, or in Hospital? Please contact Fr Domenico if you require a visit or know of anyone who is sick and housebound or in hospital and wishes a visit during this festive season.

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 17th January at 4.30pm – Margaret and Don.

Christmas Day Raffle Prizes are on table in the front lobby. If you are a winner, please make sure that you collect your prize! Thank you to everyone who took part.

“90 Club” fees are now due for those who pay in advance; please check with Don. There are some numbers still left – only £2 a month.

Prize Bingo: Friday 27 January, at 7.00pm is the date of our next ‘eyes down’ – thereafter every last Friday until June. Your help in donating items to give as prizes is always greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Leslie Murray + Jane Green + Frances Boyle + Ewen Macdonald

Anniversaries: Mary Eleanor McKeever + Cyril Ainsley + William Loftus + Margaret Coryn +