



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

15 OCTOBER 2017: TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 25: 6-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22 (23): 1-6

2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 12-14; 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22: 1-14

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 15 October	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 17 October	Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 18 October	Feast of St Luke, Evangelist	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 19 October	Optional Memorial of St John de Brébeuf, St Isaac Jogues, and Companions	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 22 October	TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Dressed for the Feast

Our Lord's parable in today's Gospel is again a fairly straightforward outline of salvation history.

God is the king (see Matthew 5:35), Jesus is the bridegroom (see Matthew 9:15), the feast is the salvation and eternal life that Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading. The Israelites are those first invited to the feast by God's servants, the prophets (see Isaiah 7:25). For refusing repeated invitations and even killing His prophets, Israel has been punished, its city conquered by foreign armies.

Now, Jesus makes clear, God is sending new servants, His apostles, to call not only Israelites, but all people—good and bad alike—to the feast of His kingdom. This an image of the Church, which Jesus elsewhere compares to a field sown with both wheat and weeds, and a fishing net that catches good fish and bad (see Matthew 13:24-43, 47-50).

We have all been called to this great feast of love in the Church, where, as Isaiah foretold, the veil that once separated the nations from the covenants of Israel has been destroyed, where the dividing wall of enmity has been torn down by the Blood of Christ (see Ephesians 2:11-14).

As we sing in today's Psalm, the Lord has led us to this feast, refreshing our souls in the waters of Baptism, spreading the table before us in the Eucharist. As Paul tells us in today's Second Reading, in the glorious riches of Christ, we will find supplied whatever we need.

And in the rich food of His Body, and the choice wine of His Blood, we have a foretaste of the eternal banquet in the heavenly Jerusalem, when God will destroy death forever (see Hebrews 12:22-24).

But are we dressed for the feast, clothed in the garment of righteousness (see Revelation 19:8)? Not all who have been called will be chosen for eternal life, Jesus warns. Let us be sure that we're living in a manner worthy of the invitation we've received (see Ephesians 4:1).

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"A Christian is one who is invited.. to join in the feast, to the joy of being saved, to the joy of being redeemed, to the joy of sharing life with Christ. This is a joy! You are called to a party!"

GENERAL NEWS

Saturday 21 October: Craft and Small Business Market – Balloch Village Hall, 10.30am-1.30pm. A great way to support our local craft makers! Come along to this family event!

Saturday 21 October: Prize Bingo at Green Hall, Smithton, organised by Smithton Residents' Association – 'eyes down' at 7.00pm. All welcome!

Friday 27 October: 'Serata Italiana' (Italian Social Evening) at St Ninian's. Tickets will be on sale after both Masses this weekend: £5 for adults and £3 for children. In addition to a lovely, authentic Italian meal, there will be live music, with adult singers and the young music group. Purchase your tickets now, and prepare to 'mangiare, cantare, e ballare'! For further details, please e-mail: ninian@stninians.org.uk, or tel. 01463 232136.

Saturday 28 October: Open Day at the Renovated Play Park, opposite Smithton School, 12 noon-4.00pm. A day of fun for the family: pipe band, face-painting, 'hook the duck', raffles, refreshments. Come along and join us!

Saturday 28 October: 'Strong Foundations' – Deanery Day of Renewal for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at the Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Stratherrick (IV2 6UL). The day begins at 10.30am, and concludes at 4.00pm. Lunch provided. See the poster on the notice-board. All welcome!

Friday 27-Sunday 29 October: Retreat for Mothers of Children and Teens – hosted by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, at Kilcoy Castle. To register, or for further details, please contact Sr Anna Christi OP at: op@rcda.scot. See the poster on the notice board.

PARISH NEWS

St Columba's Parish Pilgrimage to Rome, 8-12 October 2017 – Thanks be to God, our pilgrimage to Rome was extremely successful – spiritually rich, culturally stimulating, and (importantly) incident-free. All the members of our Parish – and beyond – were prayed for during the pilgrimage, particularly at the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens, where we spent some time remembering our sick, our housebound, and our bereaved, and praying for those in need of any kind of healing. Some photographs of the Pilgrimage have already been posted on the Parish website, and more will appear in due course.

Calling all volunteers: can you help the Parish? – we are very short of volunteers, and are looking for: **4 CLEANERS** to join the present team. Why not pair up with a friend to help? Only 1 HOUR a month! **2 PASSKEEPERS** – this involves standing in the entrance foyer and ensuring that latecomers are able to locate a seat at the start of Mass. Not very demanding, but much needed, as our numbers continue to grow! Can you help? Please speak to Fr Domenico.

FINAL CALL – Items for Blythswood Trust shoeboxes: Ainsley is collecting items for shoeboxes for the Blythswood Trust. She would be grateful for any of the following items: sewing kits, candles, screwdrivers and kitchen utensils, as well as toiletries (no talcum powder), stationery, new make-up, clothes (t-shirts, pyjamas,

jumpers, shirts, etc.). Donations of shoeboxes welcome as well. In order to make up the boxes, **we would be grateful if all items could be handed in to St Columba's by NEXT SUNDAY, 22nd October.** Many thanks.

Inverness Foodstuff: Request for Volunteers – Our project was established in 2015 and provides hot meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Drop-in Centre at Ness Bank Church for those who are homeless and vulnerable. The Drop-in Centre also has the services of the Highland Council Benefits Team, the NHS Dental Team, the NHS Harm and Reduction Team together with Community Nursing Staff. We are hoping to extend the project and open on Saturday afternoons for soup, sandwiches, IT and board games, and are looking for volunteers to staff this. If you are interested and can spare a few hours each week, fortnightly, or monthly we would be delighted to have your help. For further information contact Agnes Fraser on 07521145539 or email invernessfoodstuff@gmail.com.

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: 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 clareoke@yahoo.com.

"CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS" is coming to St Columba's!! – This is a multi-part film series that focuses on a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but also transformed the course of civilisation. Join us, on **Wednesday 25 October at 7.00pm**, and throughout the month of November, as we discover some of the 'pivotal players' who shaped the Church and changed the world!

Cleaning Team: Monday 16th October at 9.30am – Margaret and Don. Anyone offering to help to clean the church only needs to give one hour a month!

"90 Club" – Next draw takes place on 29 October! You could be our next winner if you have a number; only £2 monthly. All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO: Next 'eyes down' on **Friday 3 November 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 items to give as prizes always needed (chocolates, wine, smelly candles, toiletries, gift vouchers, tins of sweets/biscuits...). 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 + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson +

Anniversaries: + Alastair MacInnes + Matt Hamilton + Ron MacLeod + Mary Brown + Peggy Horne + Mary Gribbens +