



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

15 SEPTEMBER 2019:
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,
YEAR C

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14
Psalm: Ps 50 (51): 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 1: 12-17
Gospel: Luke 15: 1-32

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 15 September	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 17 September	Tuesday of Week 24 in Ordinary Time	NO MASS AT ST. COLUMBA'S	---
Wednesday 18 September	Wednesday of Week 24 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 19 September	Thursday of Week 24 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 20 September	St. Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions, Martyrs Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon
Saturday 21 September	Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.30 am 11.00 am
Sunday 22 September	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

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 and fell to worshipping a golden calf.

Moses implores God's mercy, just as Jesus will later intercede for the whole human race. Just 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 and 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 offense. We celebrate with Him that we have turned from the evil way that we might live (see Ezekiel 18:23). (Scott Hahn)

GENERAL NEWS

St. Vincent de Paul Society Outing, 17 September – an outing is planned to **CROMARTY** on Tuesday 17 September, **leaving St. Mary's in Huntly Street at 10.45am, after morning Mass, and returning at approx. 4.00pm.** The outing includes lunch at the Cromarty Royal Hotel and time to visit the historic Court House, Hugh Miller's Cottage, or just explore the village in your own time. **The cost is only £2.00**, payable on the day. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to go, please contact St. Mary's office on: 233519.

Interested in joining the SVP? The SVP conference of St. Ninian's, Inverness, is looking for new members to build on our current group. We are extending an invitation to the congregation of St. Columba's, Culloden, to join us and assist us in our work which includes visiting the sick, the lonely and the housebound. For details, please contact Peter Kelly of St Ninian's at ptr.kelly1@gmail.com or phone 01463 713302; you can also get in touch with Peter Birrell at peterbirrell98@gmail.com or 01463 716675.

Vacancy: Head Teacher of St. Joseph's RC Primary School, Inverness – this post is being readvertised on **myjobscotland** from around 25th September, for two weeks. If you would like further information, or if you know of anyone with the appropriate qualifications and experience who might be interested, please do contact the **myjobscotland** website in due course, or speak to Fr. Domenico.

Fr. Piotr is leaving the Highlands! – Sadly, we are to lose Fr. Piotr Rytel, the Polish Chaplain at St. Mary's, who has often celebrated Mass here with us. He will be leaving Inverness at the beginning of October to take up the appointment of Parish Priest at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Banff. Both priests and people throughout the Highlands will miss his friendly collegial manner, and his pastoral sensitivity. There will surely be a suitable farewell to express our gratitude to him, and to offer him our very best wishes for his new ministry. In his capacity as Dean, and as Parish Priest, Fr. James Bell has suggested that we might **take our leave of Fr. Piotr after the 11.00am Mass at St. Mary's, and after the Polish 1.00pm Mass, on Sunday 29 September.**

Extraordinary Missionary Month, October 2019 – Pope Francis is instituting an Extraordinary Missionary Month in October. The theme that the Holy Father has chosen is as follows: "Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World". There are four dimensions, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in His Church through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal and communal prayer;
2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs and confessors of the faith, as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world;
3. Missionary formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological;
4. Missionary charity.

Watch this space for more information on EMM (Extraordinary Mission Month), and how we can put it into practice at St. Columba's! Your input is very welcome! For more details, see the official website at: <http://www.october2019.va/en.html>

PARISH NEWS

Friday 20 September, 7-9 pm – "Baptised and Sent: Living and Passing on the Catholic Faith". We are delighted to be able to host internationally renowned speaker **David Wells**, for what will surely be an engaging and inspiring evening, and an ideal preparation for Missionary Month in October. It is a real privilege to have a speaker of David's calibre at St. Columba's – please spread the word about this special event! **We would really appreciate your assistance for the evening arrangements;** if you can help in any way, please do sign up on the sheet in the entrance foyer.

Highland Foodbank – Harvest Appeal: Your donations help to provide emergency food and support to local people in crisis. As part of our Harvest Appeal, we would be grateful for the following items: * **Long Life Juice** * **Tins of Potatoes** * **Tins of Mince/Stew** * **Oatcakes/Crackers** * **Tins of Ham** * **Shower Gel/Shampoo.** Please leave these items in the plastic box at the front door of the church. Thank you!

Confirmations 2020 – preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin in the Autumn. **If you are starting S1 this year, or if you are already in Secondary School,** please register initial interest with Fr. Domenico. A meeting will be held in early October.

BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP: please note that there will be **no meeting of the group tomorrow** (16 Sept.), due to in-service training. Next meeting: Monday 23 Sept. in the Meeting Room at St. Columba's, from 9.30am to 11.30am.

CLEANING TEAM – Monday 16th September at 4.00pm: Shona Jijy and Don. Could someone offer a kind hand to assist? Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Don.

"90 Club": NEXT DRAW Sunday 29th September. There are a few remaining numbers waiting for names to go next to them..! Only £2 monthly, with three prizes to be won. Ask Don for details.

PARISH BINGO: FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER at 7.00pm: (FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS!). Why not come along? Prayers to the Saint from Assisi may help you to win a few prizes! Items to give as prizes are urgently required, such as: gift vouchers, toiletries, chocolates, wine. and other unusual things. Thank you for your help with this.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Vinnie Walton + Michael Good + Laura Johnstone + Fr. George Hutcheon + Norman Wood + Helen Macdonald + John Macdonald + Alec Mackintosh +

Anniversaries: + Janet MacDonald + Sheena McCulloch + Hector McPhee +