



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**16 JULY 2017:**

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, A**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 64 (65):10-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8:18-23

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23

Date	Details	Service	Time
<b>Sunday 16 July</b>	<b>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Second Collection: Peter's Pence</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>
Tuesday 18 July	Tuesday of Week 15 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 19 July	Wednesday of Week 15 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 20 July	Thursday of Week 15 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
<b>Sunday 23 July</b>	<b>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Word's Return

Today's readings ask us to meditate on Israel's response to God's Word—and our own. Why do some hear the word of the kingdom, yet fail to accept it as a call to conversion and faith in Jesus? That question underlies today's Gospel, especially.

Again we see, as we did last week, that the kingdom's mysteries are unfolded to those who open their hearts, making of them a rich soil in the which the Word can grow and bear fruit.

As we sing in today's Psalm, in Jesus, God's Word has visited our land, to water the stony earth of our hearts with the living waters of the Spirit (see John 7:38; Revelation 22:1).

The first-fruit of the Word is the Spirit of love and adoption poured into our hearts in baptism, making us children of God, as Paul reminds us in today's Second Reading (see Romans 5:5; 8:15-16). In this, we are made a "new creation" (see 2 Corinthians 5:17), the first-fruits of a new heaven and a new earth (see 2 Peter 3:13).

Since the first humans rejected God's Word, creation has been enslaved to futility (see Genesis 3:17-19; 5:29). But God's Word does not go forth

only to return to Him void, as we hear in today's First Reading.

His Word awaits our response. We must show ourselves to be children of that Word. We must allow that Word to accomplish God's will in our lives. As Jesus warns today, we must take care lest the devil steal it away or lest it be choked by worldly concerns.

In the Eucharist, the Word gives himself to us as bread to eat. He does so that we might be made fertile, yielding fruits of holiness.

And we await the crowning of the year, the great harvest of the Lord's Day (see Mark 4:29; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 1:10)—when His Word will have achieved the end for which it was sent. (Scott Hahn)

### Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

At every Mass, the good seed of the Gospel is sown in us ever anew, by means of the table of the Word of God: a seed to be accepted, to safeguard, to live.

## GENERAL NEWS

**Wednesday 26 July: SVDP Outing to Pitlochry** – this outing is **FREE for all Senior Citizens** (please take proof with you!). Depart King Street (street behind St Mary's) at **10.30am** after Morning Mass. High Tea included at Kingussie on the way home. Return to Inverness at approx. 7.00pm. If interested, please phone St Mary's Office on: 01463 233519.

**Saturday 26 August: St Ninian's Summer Fair, 12 noon to 3.00pm** – this fun-filled family day includes a barbeque lunch, with numerous stalls and events, raffles, a bouncy castle, and much more! Come along and join in the fun - all welcome!

**Sunday 3 September: National Pilgrimage to Carfin, 2017** – In Honour of Our Lady of Fatima, and with the Consecration of Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. **Mass begins at 3.00pm**. Principal Celebrant: Archbishop Philip Tartaglia; Homilist: Bishop Brian McGee.

## PARISH NEWS

**Today's Second Collection: Peter's Pence** – the Catholic Church is the largest charitable institution in the world. This annual collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters. The purpose of the Peter's Pence Collection is to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease.

**New Altar Servers?** – we are building an excellent team of youngsters as Altar Servers at St Columba's, and we are always very happy to welcome more new recruits! Any child who has received First Holy Communion is encouraged to consider helping the Parish Liturgy by serving at Mass. Full training will be given!

**Highland Deanery Day for Altar Servers: Saturday 19 August, from 10.30am – 4.00pm.** We have organised a special day for all Altar Servers on 19 August. **This is a 'three-line whip', 'MUST ATTEND event' for our present servers!** The Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Mr George Brand, is coming from Aberdeen to instruct us all on the finer points of Serving, and there will be fun activities, lots of food, and friendship for our young people!

**Singing Group:** would you like to be involved in an informal singing group in our parish? The purpose of

the group would be to meet every so often with the musicians, to look at new hymns and help with singing at the Sunday Mass. We are hoping to begin this group in September. If this sounds ideal to you (no pun intended!), please speak to Fr Domenico, or to the musicians.

**Living Faith Scripture Course: "From Genesis to Jesus – Unlocking the Bible"** – Part 4 ("The Coming of the Kingdom"), focusing on the figure of King David, will be held on **Wednesday 19 July, at 7.00pm**. This course gives an overview of the Old and New Testaments, and takes the form of visual presentations, with discussion and Bible reading! Come and join us! All welcome!

**Are you interested in becoming a Catholic?** Each year thousands of adults choose to become Catholics. They come from different backgrounds, and for different reasons: some are already Christians from other traditions; some are from another faith, or no faith at all; some are non-Catholics who have been coming regularly to Mass for years with their Catholic spouses or relatives. If you would like to know more about the Catholic faith, please speak to Fr Domenico.

**Cleaning Team:** Tuesday 18 July – Mary and Marie. Anyone offering to help to keep the church nice and clean only needs to give one hour a month. You won't be left on your own! Ask Don for details.

**"90 Club": Next Draw on Sunday 30 July:** Would you like to join in? There are a few numbers left – only £2 a month. All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

**PRIZE BINGO:** there is a break over the months of July and August. **NEXT EYES DOWN IN SEPTEMBER!** However, we always appreciate non-perishable items to give as prizes; they are much needed (chocolates, wine, toiletries, stationery, or any item you would like to win)! Can you help? Your support is essential! Very many thanks to all who contribute to make our fundraiser so successful!

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia and John Drew + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Lachlan MacNeil + Rose Corbett + Murray Mackay + Eilidh MacPherson

**Anniversaries:** George Cameron + Kenny Campbell + Lizzy Gardener + Bill Muir + Samuel Thomson + Richard Utton +