



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

17 JUNE 2018:
ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalm: Ps 91 (92):2-3, 13-16

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 17 June	ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 19 June	NO MASS	---	---
Wednesday 20 June	NO MASS	---	---
Thursday 21 June	Memorial of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 24 June	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Growth of the Kingdom

Today's Gospel is composed of two very brief parables: that of the seed that sprouts and grows on its own, and that of the mustard seed (cf. Mk 4:26-34). Through these images taken from the rural world, Jesus presents the efficacy of the Word of God and the requirements of his Kingdom, showing the reasons for our hope and our commitment in history.

In the first parable, attention is placed on the fact that the seed scattered on the ground (v. 26) *takes root and develops on its own*, regardless of whether the farmer sleeps or keeps watch. He is confident in the inner power of the seed itself and in the fertility of the soil. In the language of the Gospel, the seed is the symbol of the Word of God, whose fruitfulness is recalled in this parable. As the humble seed grows in the earth, so too does the Word by the power of God work in the hearts of those who listen to it. God has entrusted his Word to our earth, that is to each one of us with our concrete humanity. We can be confident because the Word of God is a creative word, destined to become the "full grain in the ear" (v. 28). This Word, if accepted, certainly bears fruit, for God Himself makes it sprout and grow in ways that we cannot always verify or understand. (cf. v. 27). All this tells us that it is always God, it is always God who makes his Kingdom grow. That is why we fervently pray "thy Kingdom come". It is He who makes it grow. Man is his humble collaborator, who contemplates and rejoices in divine creative action and waits patiently for its fruits. The Word of God makes things grow, it gives life. And here, I would like to remind you once again, of the importance of having the Gospel, the Bible, close at hand.

A small Gospel in your purse, in your pocket and to nourish yourselves every day with this living Word of God. Read a passage from the Gospel every day, a passage from the Bible. Please don't ever forget this. Because this is the power that makes the life of the Kingdom of God sprout within us.

The second parable uses the image of the mustard seed. Despite being *the smallest* of all the seeds, it is full of life and grows until it becomes "*the greatest of all shrubs*" (Mk 4:32). And thus is the Kingdom of God: a humanly small and seemingly irrelevant reality. To become a part of it, one must be poor of heart; not trusting in their own abilities, but in the power of the love of God; not acting to be important in the eyes of the world, but precious in the eyes of God, who prefers the simple and the humble. When we live like this, the strength of Christ bursts through us and transforms what is small and modest into a reality that leavens the entire mass of the world and of history.

An important lesson comes to us from these two parables: God's Kingdom requires *our cooperation*, but it is above all the *initiative and gift of the Lord*. Our weak effort, seemingly small before the complexity of the problems of the world, when integrated with God's effort, fears no difficulty. The victory of the Lord is certain: *his love will make every seed of goodness present on the ground sprout and grow*. This opens us up to trust and hope, despite the tragedies, the injustices, the sufferings that we encounter. The seed of goodness and peace sprouts and develops, because the merciful love of God makes it ripen. (Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 14 June 2015)

GENERAL NEWS

Wednesday 20 June: "The Best of Chopin" Concert – St Mary's Church Hall, Huntly Street, at 6.00pm.

The Polish composer Frederic Chopin is known as the 'poet of the piano'. In this unforgettable evening of music and poetry, Dr. Wieslaw Prastowski invites us to explore and enjoy the elegant music of this great Polish composer. Illustrated throughout by music performed by pianist Szymon Komar, as well as by Dr. Prastowski's own poetry dedicated to Chopin. The poetry readings, as well as the presentation, will be given in Polish; however, all are welcome to come along and enjoy the music of Frederic Chopin. Phone PJ at St Mary's Parish Office for enquiries, on (01463) 233519. **Tickets are priced at £5 each.**

Sunday 24 June: Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Pluscarden Abbey – This year marks the Centenary of the 1918 Education Act (Scotland), and all of our Catholic Primary Schools have been invited to participate, along with various youth groups, to mark this special anniversary. The programme for the day is as follows:

1.00pm-2.30pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Lady Chapel).

1.00pm-2.30pm: Confessions (held at St Benedict's Retreat).

3.00pm: Pilgrimage Mass and Procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady.

Refreshments will be available in the Marquee from 12 noon onwards. All welcome.

Sunday 1 July: Scalan Annual Pilgrimage: Mass at the venerable house of Scalan, in the Braes of Glenlivet, **beginning at 4.00pm.** Scalan was the site of a hidden seminary, and during the 18th century, more than a hundred 'Heather Priests' were trained there. For those with sat navs, the postcode is **AB37 9JS**; this will take you to Chapeltown of Glenlivet –

please walk, or ask for a lift from others, for the last 1½ miles.

Friday 6 July: Priestly Ordinations of Deacon Emmet O'Dowd and Deacon Rafal Szweda at St. Mary's Cathedral in Aberdeen, at 6.00pm.

A coach has been organised for anyone wishing to travel to Aberdeen for this special Ordination Mass; the price is £10 each. The coach will depart from King Street (near St. Joseph's School) at 12.30pm, and will depart from Aberdeen after the Mass at approximately 9.30pm. If you would like to add your name to the list of those travelling on the coach, please phone St. Mary's Parish Office on (01463) 233519.

PARISH NEWS

Cleaning Team: Monday at 1.30pm – Isobel and Don. Would you like to help out? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

"90 Club": DRAW NEXT SUNDAY, 24 JUNE – are you paid up to date? If not, please see Don! Only £2 monthly!

NEXT PRIZE BINGO: FRIDAY, 29 JUNE! – 'eyes down' at 7.00pm. Family fun! Last meeting before the Summer break. Items to give as prizes are always needed. Thank you for your generosity!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia & John Drew + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean + Ellen Williams + Eva Zandre

Anniversaries: + Margaret Smith + Tom Waters +