



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

17 SEPTEMBER 2017:

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102 (103): 1-4, 9-12

2nd Reading: Romans 14: 7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 17 September	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Missio Appeal Franciscan Missionaries of Mary	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 19 September	Tuesday in the Twenty-Fourth Week of the Year	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 20 September	Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Taegon and Companions, Martyrs	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 21 September	Feast of St Matthew the Apostle	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 24 September	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Debt We Owe

Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life.

Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel, with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant – who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their Master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, "seven" is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a seven-fold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see Proverbs 24:6; Leviticus 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time.

We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us?

Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Second Reading, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the cross (see Revelation 5:9). As we sing in today's

Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us.

This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see Romans 14:10,12).

So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"God's forgiveness is what we all need, and it is the greatest sign of His mercy. A gift that every forgiven sinner is called upon to share with every brother and sister he or she meets. It is beautiful to be forgiven, but you too, if you wish to be forgiven, forgive in turn. Forgive!" (Audience, 30 March 2016)

GENERAL NEWS

Saturday 23 September: "Jesus the Healer" – a Day of Recollection led by Fr Domenico, at St Mary's, Beaulieu.

The day begins at 10.30am, and includes: Holy Mass; Talk; Group Discussion; Lunch; Exposition and Adoration; and Sacrament of Confession. The day concludes with Benediction at 2.30pm. See the poster and parish website for details!

Saturday 7 October: "A Day with Pope John Paul II", in Honour of Our Lady of the Rosary – at St Mary's Church, High Street Beaulieu (IV4 7AU). The programme for this day, which is organised for pre- and early teens, is as follows (see the poster):

10.00 am: Arrival
10.30 am: Rosary in honour of Our Lady
11.00 am: Mass of Our Lady of the Rosary
12 noon: Packed lunch
1.00 pm: Group discussions
1.30pm: Talent Show
2.15 pm: Snack / Play Time
2.45 pm: Exposition / Adoration
3.00 pm: Divine Mercy devotion / Benediction
3.30 pm: Departure

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

TODAY: Annual Missio Appeal – We are delighted to welcome Sr Alberta FMM, who joins us today from the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. The FMM is an international congregation of women religious founded in India in 1877 by Mother Mary of the Passion. They were the first missionary community of women to be founded by a woman and dedicated to universal mission. Their mission today is reflected in many diverse works that witness to Gospel values, with a commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

Sacrament of Confirmation, 2018: Any young person who would like to be considered for the Confirmation preparation class should speak to Fr Domenico, Helen, or Ewen, to register their interest, in order to give us an idea of numbers.

"Faith Matters!" – a group for teenagers (post-Confirmation onwards). A forum to air your views, a supportive environment to ask your questions on ANY aspect of Church teaching, an opportunity to discuss some of the important issues affecting young people today, a welcoming place to come together, meet other teenagers, and make new friends over food and a chat. A possible format would be as follows: a short presentation / discussion / film /etc., then a bite to eat (an hour to an hour-and-a-half max). We are also planning days out and social events, involving youngsters from parishes throughout the Deanery, with talks by outside speakers. But.. this group can only work if there is sufficient interest (!), so.. if you are a teenager, and would like to be involved in this group – or if you are a parent and would like to assist in any way – please do

speak to Fr Domenico or e-mail him at: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com.

4 October: Memorial of St Francis – to celebrate the memorial of this much-loved saint, the Secular Franciscan Order will lead us in the Transitus service, which begins at 10.30am. This service prayerfully narrates the death of St Francis; followed by a Service of the Word and Holy Communion at 11.00am Mass. All are invited to join with members of the local fraternity for the celebration and for refreshments.

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; if you have any of these at home, we would be delighted to receive them! - 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 at clareoke@yahoo.com.

"CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS" is coming to St Columba's!! – Bishop Robert Barron's *CATHOLICISM* series took people around the world and deep into the Catholic Faith. But there is still more of the story to tell. Bishop Barron is on a new journey to unlock the truth behind the Catholic Church's most influential people. *CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players* 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 18 September, at 9.30am – Margaret, Evelyn, and Don. Anyone offering to help to keep the church nice and clean only needs to give one hour a month. See Don for details.

"90 Club": Draw Next Sunday, 24 September! Good luck to all who have a ticket; if you'd like one, there's still time – only £2 a month! All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO – Next eyes down: Friday 6 October 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 (chocolates, wine, spirits, vouchers, toiletries, stationery, etc.). 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

Anniversaries: + Mina Liddle + Janet MacDonald + Sheena McCulloch + Hector McPhee + Mary MacKinnon