



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

18 NOVEMBER 2018:

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Daniel 12: 1-3

Psalm: Ps 15 (16): 5, 8-11

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18

Gospel: Mark 13: 24-32

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 18 November	THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Confession Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 20 November	Tuesday of Week 33 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 21 November	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Intention: Richard Green, R.I.P. (Anniversary)	Sacrament of Confession Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 22 November	Memorial of St. Cecilia Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 25 November	CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Confession Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year: Encountering the Face of the Risen Lord

The Gospel of this penultimate Sunday of the liturgical year offers us part of Jesus' discourse regarding the last events of human history, oriented toward the complete fulfilment of the reign of God (cf. Mk 13:24-32). It is the talk that Jesus gave in Jerusalem before his last Passover. It has certain apocalyptic elements, such as wars, famine, cosmic catastrophes: "The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken" (vv. 24-25). However, these segments are not the essential part of the message. The core around which Jesus' words turn is he himself, the mystery of his person, and of his death and resurrection, and his return at the end of time.

Our final goal is the encounter with the Risen Lord. I would like to ask how many of you think about this. "There will be a day in which I meet the Lord face to face". And this is our goal: the encounter. We do not await a time or a place, but we are going to encounter a person: Jesus. Thus the problem is not "when" these premonitory signs of the last days will occur, but rather our being prepared. Neither is it about knowing "how" these things will happen, but instead "how" we have to act today, in awaiting these things. We are called to live the present, building our future with serenity and trust in God. The parable of the fig tree that sprouts, as a sign of the approaching summer (cf. vv. 28-29), teaches that the perspective of the end doesn't distract us from the present life, but rather brings us to look at our current days with an outlook of hope. This virtue of hope that is so hard to live. The smallest but strongest of the virtues. And our hope has a face: the face of the Risen Lord, who comes "with great

power and glory" (v. 26), which will manifest his love, crucified and transfigured in the Resurrection. The triumph of Jesus at the end of time will be the triumph of the Cross, the demonstration that the sacrifice of oneself for love of neighbour, in imitation of Christ, is the only victorious power, the only stable point in the midst of the upheavals and tragedies of the world.

The Lord Jesus is not only the destination of our earthly pilgrimage, but also a constant presence in our lives; he is also beside us, he always accompanies. That's why, when we speak of the future, and project ourselves toward it, it is always in order to lead us back to the present. He counters the false prophets, the fortune-tellers who predict that the end of the world is near; he sets himself against fatalism. He is at our side; he walks with us; he loves us. He wants to remove from his disciples of every age the curiosity about dates, predictions, horoscopes, and focus their attention on the today of history... This presence of Jesus calls us to the anticipation and vigilance that exclude both impatience and lethargy, both the escaping to the future and the becoming prisoners of the current moment and of worldliness.

In our days, too, there is no lack of natural and moral disasters, nor of adversities and difficulties of every kind. Everything passes, the Lord reminds us; he alone, his Word remains as the light that guides and encourages our steps. He always forgives us because he is at our side. We need only look at him and he changes our hearts. May the Virgin Mary help us to trust in Jesus, the firm foundation of our life, and to persevere with joy in his love.

(Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 15 November 2015).

GENERAL NEWS

Ogilvie Centre Formation Events

A men's retreat will take place in November:

Men's Retreat – 23 – 25 November

The retreat is hosted at Kilcoy Castle, Muir of Ord.

For further information or reservations, please contact Sr. Anna Christi at Ogilvie@rcda.scot.

Gabriel Society: Tuesday 27 November at 7.00pm

in the Marian Room, 32 Huntly Street – Kit Fraser, a local writer and businessman, will be speaking on the subject of 'Secret Spirit: Depression and Prayer'. All welcome.

Inter-denominational Christmas Carol Service:

on Friday 14 December at 7.00pm at St. Mary's RC Church, Beaulieu. All welcome!

Saturday 15 December: "Jesus the True Messiah" – at St. Mary's Church, Beaulieu, from 10.00am-3.30pm.

An Advent Reflection in the light of *Cur Deus Homo* of St. Anselm, led by Fr. Kingsley Chibgo CCE. The programme for the day is as follows:

10:00am – Tea/coffee & introductions

10:30am – Mass

11:25am-12:15pm – Conference Talk & Discussion

12:30pm-1:10pm – Exposition, Penitential Service, & Confessions

1:15pm – Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament

1:30pm – Lunch and dismissal

PARISH NEWS

FORTHCOMING PILGRIMAGES FROM

ST. COLUMBA'S – Fr. Domenico is making plans for forthcoming pilgrimages in 2019 and 2020, with potential destinations such as Barcelona (Sagrada Familia) and the Monastery of Montserrat in Autumn 2019 (cost approx. £1,000), and the world-famous ten-yearly Passion Play at Oberammergau in Autumn 2020 (c. £1,400). If you are interested in either of these pilgrimages, please do let him know!

FAITH IN FILM EVENING: 'PARKLAND' –

Wednesday 21 November at 7.00pm. On the eve of the 55th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, we will screen 'Parkland', a film that weaves together the perspectives of a handful of ordinary individuals, suddenly thrust into extraordinary circumstances. The young doctors and nurses at Parkland Hospital, the Dallas Chief of the Secret Service; the unwitting cameraman who captured what became the most watched and examined film in history; the FBI agents who nearly had the gunman within their grasp; the brother of Lee Harvey Oswald, left to deal with his shattered family; and JFK's security team, witnesses to both the President's death and Vice-President Lyndon Johnson's rise to power over a

nation whose innocence was forever altered. Certificate: 15; duration 95 minutes.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT – a date for your diaries! The St. Columba's Christmas Carol Concert will take place on **Wednesday 5 December, from 7.00pm-8.00pm.** This year, we are hosting the children and staff of St. Joseph's RC Primary School, who will be entertaining us with seasonal and sacred music. They will be joined by community Christmas carol singing (that means you!), together with seasonal Scripture readings. We will have special guests joining us, and there is a rumour that the "Three (Highland) Priests" may also be making an appearance! All this, with festive food and drink provided (non-alcoholic mulled wine, mince pies, and other goodies). Donations at the door, please: £5 for adults; kids go free! All proceeds go towards our Building Fund. Why not invite some friends and come along? Spread a little festive cheer!

ST. COLUMBA'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday 8 December, 2.00pm-4.00pm.

Santa has promised to join us at this special party!

BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP – The group meets at St. Columba's every Monday, from 9.30am to 11.30am. Why not come along and join in the fun?!

Cleaning Team: 20th November: Mary and Karen. Can you help us? Helping just one hour a month would lighten the load of others who do assist to keep the church nice and clean. See Don or Fr. Domenico for details.

90 Club: NEXT DRAW – 25 November. Remember: "you have to be in it to win it!" Only £2 a month! Please speak to Don.

PRIZE BINGO: FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER – 'EYES DOWN' AT 7.00PM! – We are short of non-perishable items for prizes (toiletries, gift sets, store vouchers, wine, spirits, chocolates, boxes of biscuits, etc.). Can you help us? A sincere 'thank you' for all of the items that have been handed in; these are very important to us, and are much appreciated. Your support is instrumental in making the Bingo such a success for the parish!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean + Ellen Williams + Eva Zanre + Vinnie Walton + Laura Johnstone +

Anniversaries: + Jack Johnston + Annie Jasinski + Effie Kennedy + Richard Green + Christina Johnston + Patrick McGlade +