



St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW

Tel: (01463) 794619 / (01463) 233519

E-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com

Website: www.stcolumbasculloden.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden

Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

19 NOVEMBER 2017: THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127 (128): 1-5

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 19 November	THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - WORLD DAY OF THE POOR - Second Collection: Mary's Meals	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 21 November	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 22 November	St Cecilia, Virgin Martyr 'Red Wednesday': for Persecuted Christians	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 23 November	St Clement I, Pope and Martyr	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 26 November	CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

World Day of the Poor – Main Points of Pope Francis' Message

"Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth" (*1 Jn 3:18*). Whenever we set out to love as Jesus loved, we have to take the Lord as our example; especially when it comes to loving the poor.

"This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him" (*Ps 34:6*). The Church has always understood the importance of this cry ... one of the first signs of the entrance of the Christian community upon the world's stage: the service of the poor.

"They sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need" (*Acts 2:45*). The evangelist Luke's words are addressed to believers in every generation, and thus also to us, in order to sustain our own witness and to encourage our care for those most in need.

[...] there have been times when Christians have not fully heeded this appeal, and have assumed a worldly way of thinking. Yet the Holy Spirit has not failed to call them to keep their gaze fixed on what is essential. He has raised up men and women who, in a variety of ways, have devoted their lives to the service of the poor.. The most outstanding example is that of Francis of Assisi.

We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work, or of impromptu acts of generosity that appease our conscience. However good and useful such acts may be for making us sensitive to people's needs and the injustices that are often their cause, they ought to lead to a true *encounter* with the poor and a *sharing* that becomes a way of life.

All the poor – as Blessed Paul VI loved to say – belong to the Church by "evangelical right" (*Address at the Opening of the Second Session of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council*, 29 September 1963), and require of us a fundamental option on their behalf.

This *Day* is meant to encourage believers to react against a culture of discard and waste, and to embrace the culture of encounter.

At the heart of all the many concrete initiatives carried out on this day should always be *prayer*. Let us not forget that the *Our Father* is the prayer of the poor.

This new *World Day* ... should become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel. The poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practise in our lives the essence of the Gospel.

GENERAL NEWS

Tuesday 21 November: Gabriel Society – “The Media and the Catholic Press”. To be held in the Marian Room, at 32 Huntly Street, beginning at 7.00pm. All welcome!

Saturday 25 November: St Andrew's Night Dance – Live music & dance featuring Scottish & Polish tunes from **The Brothers Band** and **DJ Coli** on **Saturday 25 November from 8.00pm until 2.00am**, in the St. Mary's Church Hall. Food will be available, but please feel free to take along something to eat and drink (no bar). Ticket prices £15. Tickets from Parish Office ask for PJ - 01463 233519. Reserve your tickets for this popular St. Andrew's event.

PARISH NEWS

World Day of the Poor: TODAY – The first World Day of the Poor will be observed in the universal Church today at the request of Pope Francis. At the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Holy Father wanted to offer the Church a World Day of the Poor, “so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need.” The World Day of the Poor message is entitled, “Let us love, not with words but with deeds”. In the message Pope Francis invites “the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity.” How can we respond to Pope Francis' call? Each of us might take time to pray and reflect on this question, and consider various practical initiatives which could be undertaken, at both parish and diocesan level, to alleviate “the cry of the poor”. **Our Second Collection will be for Mary's Meals.**

Would you like to get involved in St Columba's Mothers and Toddlers Group? The group, which meets **every Monday, from 9.30am-11.30am**, is looking for volunteers to assist on an informal basis (as and when you can make it). Can you help with any of the following?: arts and crafts; music time; help with snacks and tea and coffee. If you would like to get involved, please contact Clare or Sara at: clareoke@yahoo.com, or sara@culloden.net.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR NOVEMBER – these take place on Thursdays 23rd and 30th, from 5 to 5.30pm. Four young people have already signed up. If you are in S1 or above and would like to join us please come along or speak to Helen or Ewen.

Lighting up St Columba's: #RedWednesday – This autumn, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is asking us to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians throughout the world, and with all who suffer for their peacefully-held beliefs. ACN will be holding a **week of events from 19 – 26 November, with #RedWednesday as the highlight on THIS WEDNESDAY, 22 November**. Red is the Christian colour of martyrdom. Christians are the most persecuted faith group in today's world, and #RedWednesday will honour all Christians who suffer and die for their faithfulness to Christ's message of peace and love, and will shine a light on Christian persecution, but will also highlight the injustices perpetrated against other faith groups. To mark our own solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters, St Columba's will be floodlit red during the month of November. For details, please go online to this website: <https://acnuk.org/campaign/redwednesday/>

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday 9 December, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Santa has been notified, and has promised us that he will come to visit St Columba's! There will be music, games, surprises, and much more! All children very welcome! See our poster in the foyer!

ST COLUMBA'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Wednesday 13 December, 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Back by popular demand – a date for your diaries! As per last year, we will be hosting a service of your favourite Christmas carols, with community singing (that means you!) together with seasonal Scripture readings, with festive food and drink provided (non-alcoholic mulled wine, mince pies, and other goodies). We have invited special guests to join us!! Donations at the door will be gratefully accepted – suggested offerings are: £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!

“CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS” returns to St Columba's **this week, on Wednesday 22 November at 7.00pm**, as we look at the figure of **ST CATHERINE OF SIENA** (‘The Mystic’). Is the physical world all there is? Is science the only path to ascertaining truth? St. Catherine of Siena witnesses to a higher world beyond the material. Though the fourteenth century mystic never studied theology, her life constitutes a powerful challenge to the secularism of our time. Come and join us as we learn about this fascinating woman!

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 21 November, at 4.00pm – Margaret and Don. Would you like to join the parish cleaning team? We are always looking for volunteers! An hour a month is all we ask!

“90 Club” – DRAW NEXT WEEK, Sunday 26 November. Good luck to all who have a number. There are still a few left; only £2 monthly. Please ask Don for details.

Prize Bingo: our next fun-filled fundraiser evening will take place on **Friday 1 December at 7.00pm**. All welcome! Come and take part in a family evening. Refreshments provided during the interval! Items to give as prizes are always required items to give as prizes always needed (we are particularly short of chocolates, and of wines and spirits; we'd also appreciate smelly candles, toiletries, gift vouchers, tins of sweets/biscuits...). Thank you for all your support of this fund-raiser.

Annual Christmas Hamper Draw: TICKETS NOW ON SALE – only £1 for a strip of five tickets! Please include your name and phone number on the back of the tickets.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Amelia & John Drew + Rose Corbett + Murray Mackay + Peter Simpson + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson +

Anniversaries: + Effie Kennedy + Annie Jasinski + Christina Johnstone + Patrick McGlade