



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

### 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14

Psalm: 23:1-6

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 1 November	Solemnity of All Saints ~ 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Columba's ~ (2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Wednesday 4 November	St Charles Borromeo - Memorial	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 5 November	Thursday of Week 31 in Ordinary Time B	Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion	19.30
Sunday 8 November	Thirty-Second Sunday of the Year B (2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30

### Solemnity of All Saints: Homily of Pope Francis at Campo Verano Cemetery, Rome (1 November 2013)

At this hour before sunset, we gather in this cemetery and think about our future, we think of all those who have departed, preceded us in life and are in the Lord.

The vision of Heaven we just have heard described in the First Reading is very beautiful: the Lord God, beauty, goodness, truth, tenderness, love in its fullness. All of this awaits us. Those who have gone before us and who have died in the Lord are there. They proclaim that they have been saved not through their own works, though good works they surely did, but that they have been saved by the Lord: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev 7:10). It is he who saves us, it is he who at the end of our lives takes us by the hand like a father, precisely to that Heaven where our ancestors are. One of the elders asks: "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?" (v. 13). Who are these righteous ones, these saints who are in Heaven? The reply is: "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (v. 14).

We can enter heaven only thanks to the blood of the Lamb, thanks to the blood of Christ. Christ's own blood has justified us, which has opened for us the gates of heaven. And if today we remember our brothers and sisters who have gone before us in life and are in Heaven, it is because they have been washed in the blood of Christ. This is our hope: the hope of Christ's blood! It is a hope that does not disappoint. If we walk with the Lord in life, he will never disappoint us!

In the Second Reading, we heard what the Apostle John said to his disciples: "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason the world does not know us.... We are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see

him as he is" (1 Jn 3:1-2). To see God, to be like God: this is our hope. And today, on All Saints' Day and the first day that we commemorate the faithful departed, we need to think a little about this hope: this hope that accompanies us in life. The first Christians depicted hope with an anchor, as though life were an anchor cast on Heaven's shores and all of us journeying to that shore, clinging to the anchor's rope. This is a beautiful image of hope: to have our hearts anchored there, where our beloved predecessors are, where the Saints are, where Jesus is, where God is. This is the hope that does not disappoint; today and tomorrow are days of hope.

Hope is a little like leaven that expands our souls. There are difficult moments in life, but with hope the soul goes forward and looks ahead to what awaits us. Today is a day of hope. Our brothers and sisters are in the presence of God and we shall also be there, through the pure grace of the Lord, if we walk along the way of Jesus. The Apostle John concludes: "every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure" (v. 3). Hope also purifies us, it lightens us; this purification in hope in Jesus Christ makes us go in haste, readily. Today before evening falls each one of us can think of the twilight of life: "What will my passing away be like?". All of us will experience sundown, all of us! Do we look at it with hope? Do we look with that joy at being welcomed by the Lord? This is a Christian thought that gives us hope. Today is a day of joy; however it is serene and tranquil joy, a peaceful joy. Let us think about the passing away of so many of our brothers and sisters who have preceded us, let us think about the evening of our life, when it will come. And let us think about our hearts and ask ourselves: "Where is my heart anchored?". If it is not firmly anchored, let us anchor it beyond, on that shore, knowing that hope does not disappoint because the Lord Jesus does not disappoint.

## GENERAL NEWS

### **Catenian Christmas Dinner: Friday 4 December:**

7.00pm for 7.30pm, until midnight, at the Inverness Golf Club, on Culcabock Road. Licensed Bar and Raffle. £25.00 per head. For tickets, please contact Tony Lightfoot (tel: 236495) or Joe Campbell (tel: 790888).

## PARISH NEWS

**Month of the Holy Souls:** November is the month when we remember our dearly departed. If you would like to have any deceased relatives or friends remembered at Mass during November, please place their names in the brown envelopes in the foyer and hand them in to the sacristy. All names will be placed in front of the altar, and a selection will be read out at every Mass. All offerings will be donated to our Building Fund.

**Remembrance Sunday – 8 November:** this is a day for the nation to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. We will have our own short Service of Remembrance in front of our War Memorial. If you have served – or are presently serving – in HM Armed Forces, or in any form of public service, or if you are a member of the Scouts, Guides, or other organisation, please do consider attending the event in your uniform.

**FIRS (Friends in Retirement):** the next meeting of the FIRS group will take place at St Columba's on **Thursday 12 November, 2.00-4.00pm**. The guest is Mr Ramsay McGhee (Music and Quiz). All welcome!

**St Columba's "Iona Group"** for teenagers will meet on **Saturday 14 November from 5.00pm until 7.30pm**. Come along for a relaxing evening, with a good movie ("Soul Surfer", Certificate PG), some delicious food, and fine company! All this, and the opportunity to meet other young people your age! See you there!

**Mary's Meals:** the UK government will double all personal donations to Mary's Meals from now until the end of December. We will have a special Second Collection for Mary's Meals on **Sunday 15 November**.

**Thank you to our anonymous donor!** – a kind-hearted soul recently made a wonderful donation of £500 to the Parish Building Fund. Because it was donated via Gift Aid, we can reclaim 25%, meaning that **we receive a total of £625!** Please accept our gratitude and prayerful thanks for your generosity.

**Shoebox Appeal:** Ruairidh Macdonald will be returning to Romania in mid-December to deliver filled shoeboxes from Blythswood, including his own, and any that our community would wish to donate. Parishioners are invited to donate a full box, or items for a box, for Ruairidh to deliver. These include the usual items, such as: toothbrushes and toothpaste, toiletries, hats, scarves, gloves, stationery, sewing kits, etc. **Donations need to be handed in before Friday 6th November.**

**Weekday Mass Provision at St Columba's:** from **Tuesday 10 November onwards**, the weekday Mass provision at St Columba's will be as follows:

Tuesdays	Mass: 7.30 pm;
Wednesdays	Mass: 11.00 am; Exposition: 11.30 am
Thursdays	Mass: 7.30 pm
Fridays	Mass: 11.00 am; Exposition: 11.30 am

During the Year of Mercy, the **Sacrament of Confession** will be available **30 minutes before each Mass**.

**The Jubilee Year of Mercy (8 Dec 2015 - 20 Nov 2016):** in addition to **prayer cards** and **booklets** to prepare us for the forthcoming Year of Mercy, I will be offering **two Evenings of Reflection in November**. The format will be as follows: a short talk, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, some quiet time, and concluding with Benediction. The evenings of reflection begin at 7.00pm:

**Wed 11 November: Introducing the Year of Mercy.**

**Wed 18 November: Pope Francis, the Pontiff of Mercy.**

**Day of Reflection at Stratherrick:** led by Fr Domenico on **8 December (Immaculate Conception)**, to mark the beginning of the Year of Mercy. The Day will begin at 10.00am, and conclude at approx. 4.00pm. Details to follow. Lunch will be provided. If you would like to attend, please contact Therese Finlay on 01456 486678, for catering purposes. All welcome!

**Christmas Carol Service, Wednesday 9 December:** we will be hosting a service of Christmas carols, together with seasonal Scripture readings, here at St Columba's, with seasonal food and drink provided. More details soon.

**Church cleaning:** Shona and Gigi – **Monday** at 4.30pm. A sincere thank you to our volunteers for their hard work in keeping our church looking so beautiful.

**'90 Club':** this month's winners: no. 46 Catriona; no. 4 Mary J.; no. 39 Ewen (Senior). Congratulations to our three winners. If anyone would like to join in, there are a few numbers still available. Ask Don for details. Our next draw is Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Only £2 monthly!

**Prize Bingo – this Friday, 6 November!** Eyes down at 7.00pm. Thanks to everyone who has donated items to give out as prizes; without your help our Bingo would not be the success that it is. We are now in our eleventh year! Our next Bingo night will be December 4th. A warm welcome awaits you. **Why not join us at this fund-raising initiative?!**

## FINANCES

St Columba's no. 1	£ 304.90
St Columba's Building Fund	£ 679.30
(of which, an anonymous Gift Aid donation	£ 500.00)

– Thank you for your generosity and support –

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** Audrey O'Connell + Anna Black + Leslie Murray + Michelle Campbell + Laura Johnstone + Amelia Drew

**Anniversaries and November Lists:** Joan Macintyre + Mary Gribben + Peggy Horne + John Horne + Renzo Serafini + Tom O'Connor + William Hay