



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

20TH NOVEMBER 2016

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (YEAR C)

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 5: 1-3

Psalm: Ps 121: 1-5

2nd Reading: Colossians 1: 12-20

Gospel: Luke 23: 35-43

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 20 November	SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING (Second Collection: Seminarians' Appeal)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 22 November	Memorial of St Cecilia	Service of the Word and Holy Communion	7.30pm
Wednesday 23 November	Wednesday in the Thirty-Fourth Week of the Year	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 24 November	Memorial of St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	Mass	7.30pm
Sunday 27 November	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00am 9.30am

PASTORAL LETTER TO MARK THE END OF THE YEAR OF MERCY – BISHOP HUGH GILBERT, OSB

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

'The love of the Lord is everlasting / upon those who hold him in fear; / his justice reaches out to children's children / when they keep his covenant in truth, / when they keep his will in their mind' (Ps 103: 17-18). So goes a Psalm.

Today, the Holy Father will close the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in Rome, and the Jubilee Year of Mercy will conclude – on this Solemnity of Christ the King.

It has been a time of divine grace and human generosity. Unexpected touches of God. So many personal initiatives, in prayer and practice, seen and unseen. There is hardly a parish or community or group within our diocese which has not marked this Year in some way. What must this look like on a world scale? And when has mercy, divine and human, ever seemed so timely as now?

It is of faith that God's love is everlasting, steadfast, enduring. His mercy will continue to flow. And ours should too, beyond the Jubilee. Pope Francis has been clear on this. He has asked us to embody the impetus of this Year in long-term projects, in continued efforts. It's this call I want to echo here.

The Church has a three-fold mission in the world: - to proclaim the word of God; to celebrate the Sacraments; to exercise the ministry of charity.

Through faith and baptism, we all belong to the Church. We are all her members. We are all, in different ways, co-responsible for her mission. This means we are called to be transmitters of God's revealed truth and to share in the Church's rich sacramental worship. And the grace of Word and Sacrament is then to 'explode', as it were, in our lives, to kindle our better selves. It is meant to overflow in dedication to the total welfare, temporal and spiritual, of those with whom we share the world. 'So then, says St Paul, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, and especially to those who are of the household of faith' (Gal 6:10).

The 'ministry of charity' entails the practice of the works of mercy. According to the famous judgement scene in Matthew ch.25 – 'I was hungry and you gave me food' - the presence of the works of mercy in our lives opens salvation to us; their absence, our eternal loss. They prove that our faith and prayer

are real, and not just self-regarding or lip-service. 'My children, says St John, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in [God's] presence (1 Jn 3:18-19).

So I want to echo Pope Francis' call. **Let's perpetuate the initiatives of this Year! This is best done locally. May I ask, therefore, each parish and community in the diocese to look at what is possible. 'Possible' is a key word. So is 'imagination'.** It may be simply a matter of continuing what has already begun. **At the Cathedral, for example, a cooked meal has been prepared for the homeless each month. It has been well patronised. The aim is to go on with this. Again, an initiative may relate to members of the parish, especially the more marginal, or it may reach out into the wider community and involve linking up with other positive social projects. It may look to another part of the world, by way of a Catholic charity or a direct connection.** Whatever we do, it is good to do it as Catholic Christians, that is, as expressions of our faith and sacramental life. 'The love of Christ – the Eucharist – urges us on.' Simply 'to pray for the living and the dead' is a work of mercy: the last listed, but not the least.

One final thought: Pope Francis, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Jean Vanier and **many others have identified loneliness as a particular grief of our time.** Many suffer a poverty of relationships: of good, steadying, energising relationships. The Church, by nature, 'does community', and often, thank God, does it well. Our togetherness in Christ is a great resource in itself. Perhaps, more than anything else, **we need to find ways to share this richness: to invite, to gather people, to offer hospitality, to make friends, to propose prayer. This can be transformative for all concerned and make mercy very real indeed.**

Dear brothers and sisters, this Year's doors of mercy have now closed, but not God's heart nor ours. 'Let your mercy, O Lord, be always upon us as we place all our hope in you' (Te Deum). As we draw again and again on God's forgiveness of our sins, let us ourselves be a sacrament of mercy and reconciliation to others.

PARISH NEWS

Today's Second Collection: Seminarians' Appeal

We are fortunate to have FIVE Seminarians in formation. Today, on this Solemnity of Christ the King, we have the annual Collection to assist with the costs of their training. A new Appeal is launched this week – please see the poster on the noticeboard in the entrance foyer and in the meeting room. Appeal leaflets will be available in due course.

Mary's Meals Fundraiser: The Catenian Association have very kindly offered a donation of £100 towards our fundraising efforts for Mary's Meals. This means that our **grand total is.. £1,125.00 !!! THANK YOU so much!!**

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: the Minutes of the recent meeting of the PPC on Thursday 10 November are available on the notice-board.

NEW: Evening Prayer: 7.00pm every Tuesday – from **Tuesday 29 November onwards**, we will be introducing Evening Prayer of the Church at 7.00pm in St Columba's. Why not join us, in the Universal Prayer of the Church? An ideal preparation before Mass!

Snow/ice clearing: our list of volunteers needs updating. Can you help? Please sign up in the foyer.

Drama Group for Children (approx. 5-10 years old):

This initiative has been suggested to me by one of our parishioners. If you would like to help with a simple drama group for our younger children, with the aim of putting together a small production at Christmas and Easter-time, please speak to Fr Domenico.

Faith in Film Evening: Wed 23 Nov – CANCELLED –

Please note that our next film will be screened on **Wednesday 21 December, at 7.00pm, and is entitled** *The Nativity Story* (2006). Critics have described this adaptation as “beautifully directed and portrayed” – “a truly wonderful film that conveys great spiritual power, even as it brings home the humanity of Mary and Joseph to a degree few of its predecessors ever even attempted. Keisha Castle-Hughes is wonderful as young Mary, but [...] Oscar Isaac is more than up to the task of bringing this humble carpenter to vivid life” (Certificate: PG – 97 minutes).

Friends Of LSU Advent retreat day: Sat 26 November, 10.30am-3.30pm. Facilitator: Fr. John McCluskey, MHM. All welcome. Soup and rolls provided!

Safeguarding Training Session: Saturday 26 November at 10.00am at St Columba's. This will last 1-2 hours only. This is for anyone who has undergone a PVG check or is due a PVG check for the Church, and has not previously attended a training session. Anyone who has previously attended a training session is also welcome to attend for a refresher, if they wish. **This training is regarded as mandatory by the Church.** If you are uncertain if you should attend please speak to Helen Macdonald, Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday 10 December, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Santa has been notified, and has promised us that he will come to visit St Columba's on Saturday 10 December! There will be music, games, surprises, and much more! All children very welcome!

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Wed 14 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, here at St Columba's, with festive food and drink provided (mulled wine, mince pies, and other goodies). We have invited a few school choirs to join us, plus several other special guests!! Donations at the door – all proceeds go towards our Building Fund. Why not invite some friends? Spread a little festive cheer!

HOME ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS? If you're spending Christmas by yourself this year, why not join some of our other parishioners for a Christmas meal together? If you would like to do this, please speak to Fr Domenico, or to Magda Maclean.

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Take a few books home for friends and neighbours! Only £1 a ticket – available in the entrance foyer.

ST COLUMBA'S HOGMANAY DANCE, from 9.00pm until 12.30am. Come along to St Columba's on Hogmanay and bring in the New Year with us in style! Tickets are priced **just £5.00, in aid of the Church Building Fund.** Music is provided by John Gordon, and there will be stovies & oatcakes and other delights all night long! Please feel free to bring your own refreshments! Tickets are now on sale - why not treat yourself and your family this Hogmanay?!!

Church cleaning – Tuesday 22 November at 4.30pm: Margaret and Don. New volunteers are always welcomed – please consider offering some of your spare time to help clean our beautiful church!

“90 Club” – DRAW NEXT WEEK, Sunday 27 November. We have a few numbers still available; it might be your turn to win! 3 GOOD PRIZES! Please ask Don about joining in – ONLY £2 MONTHLY!

PRIZE BINGO – The next Fundraiser Bingo will be on **FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER; eyes down at 7.00 pm!! We will have a Christmas theme, with crackers, mince pies, and sweet treats!! Fun for all the family – come and join us!** Items to give as prizes always needed, your generosity is greatly appreciated, without your help we would not be so successful in our fund raising efforts. Thank you!!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray + Rhona MacGregor + Cath and Roddy Mackenzie +

Anniversaries: + Annie Jasinski + Patrick McGlade + Christina Johnstone + Anastasia MacLeod + Wally Pocock + Andrew Macdonald + Thres Amma Thomas