



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

20th SEPTEMBER 2015

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Psalm: 53:3-6, 8

2nd Reading: James 3:16-4:3

Gospel: Mark 9: 30-37

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 20 September	Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year B (2nd Collection: The Sick & Retired Priests of the Diocese)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Wednesday 23 September	St Pio of Pietrelcina	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 24 September	Thursday of Week 25 in Ordinary Time	Mass	19.30
Sunday 27 September	Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year B (2nd Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available every Sunday before Mass, and at any other time upon request.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B):

We deceive ourselves if we imagine that we can master out selfishness alone

‘The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again. But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.’

The Gospels repeatedly record that the disciples failed to understand what Jesus had meant in the predictions of his death and resurrection. The predictions were clear enough, so their lack of understanding seems incomprehensible. Could it be that this lack of understanding was rooted in something far deeper, in the tendency of sinful humanity to hear only the things that it wants to hear?

As the Gospel passage unfolds, Jesus questioned the selfishness that can neither hear nor understand anything that runs contrary to itself. He questioned the attitude that had led his disciples to argue among themselves along the road as to which of them was the greatest. His challenge was a direct affront to hidden pride: “If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.”

If we are truly to understand the meaning of Christ’s death and resurrection, we must first grasp this selfless humility. If we are to share in this death and Resurrection, then it must begin here and now, in an attitude that is willing to die to one’s self and live for Christ.

Jesus drove this lesson home by embracing a child in the midst of his disciples: “Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Only in abandoning the selfish pride that distances us from God are we free to accept a child, an enemy, an imagined

rival or a foreign refugee. The list could go on to embrace every petty disdain.

The humility lacking in sinners does not come easily. It is the work of a lifetime. St James set it within the context of “the desires fighting inside our own selves”.

This is something we can readily understand. Until we have reached perfection, selfishness repeatedly asserts itself, frequently doing violence both to ourselves and others.

As James observed, we want something and are prepared to kill, we have an unsatisfied ambition and are prepared to achieve it by force.

Christ’s answer to the uncontrolled selfishness of sinful hearts was his death and Resurrection. We deceive ourselves if we imagine that we can master our selfishness alone.

We can only pray that in Christ we might die to self and be raised up in his selfless grace. Without such redemption we become like the godless described in the Book of Wisdom. We lie in wait for anything virtuous that affronts our pride.

(Rt. Rev. David McGough, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, *Catholic Herald*, 18 Sept 2015).

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

“Dear lay faithful, be close to your priests with affection and with your prayers, that they may be always be shepherds according to God’s heart. And pray for those whom God is calling to be priests that they may respond to this call with humility and joy.” (Chrism Mass, 28 March 2013)

GENERAL NEWS

Saint Duncan Stone?

Many of the older members of our parish and diocese benefited from the pastoral care of the late Canon Duncan Stone; his guidance was often sought and revered, and his friends often claim to pray to him. It is now over five years since his death. Should we introduce a cause for his possible canonisation? We would need to begin this process now, as the number of those who knew him best is diminishing year by year. For this we need to gather stories of his holiness, such as his patience and gentleness, generosity, or his acceptance of suffering united to Christ. We have the moving humorous tales that filled our book of memories of him, but we now need other information. Please send any such accounts to Jane MacMaster (janeruth@btinternet.com or 01463 236275)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Second Collection is for our sick and retired priests. We have just over thirty priests ministering in a Diocese that covers an area almost the same size as Belgium. Priests normally retire from active ministry at the age of 75, though we have a number of dedicated men who are still working beyond this age, and even a few hardy octogenarians – particularly in this Highland Deanery! Ten of our own clergy will reach the age of retirement within the next ten years. How are we to provide for them, after so many years of selfless service to the People of God?

Parish Pastoral Council: a new Parish Pastoral Council will be constituted in the near future, with our first meeting on **Thursday 8th October**, after the evening Mass.

'Faith in Film' evening: join us for a screening of **"There Be Dragons"**, on **Wednesday 30 September, from 7.00pm**. "There Be Dragons" is an epic, action-adventure romance set during the Spanish Civil War and directed by Hollywood legend Roland Joffe ("The Mission", "The Killing Fields"). The story traces the lives of two men - childhood friends who become separated by the political turmoil of pre-war Spain only to find themselves on opposite sides when the war erupts. One becomes a priest; the other is an activist who becomes a spy for the fascist movement. As both personal and national battles are waged, the characters' lives collide and their deepest struggles are illuminated through the fateful choices they make. Certificate: 15 (117 minutes).

Feast of St Francis of Assisi: The Secular Franciscan Order will celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis on **Saturday 3rd October** at St Columba's, Culloden. Prayers and readings in the church at 11.30am will be followed by Mass at 12 noon. After Mass, everyone is invited to join members of the local fraternity for refreshments. For more details, phone Helen MacGilp on Inverness 792149.

Supporting St Columba's – can you help the Parish? We are looking for volunteers to help us with a variety of tasks, including the following: Readers at Sunday Mass, Hospitality Ministry (ushers and helping distribute and tidy away hymn books), kitchen duties, church cleaners. Are you able to offer a little of your spare time to help the Parish? Please speak to Fr Domenico or to Helen MacGilp.

Church cleaning this week: Wednesday at 1.00pm - Mary and Marie Cummings.

Gardening: subject to favourable weather conditions, we will be tending to this on Tuesday from 7.00pm onwards. Are you able to help us? Bring your own tools.

'90 Club': Our fund-raising '90 Club' draw takes place next week, on **Sunday 27 September**. There is still time to get your own number; see Don for details. Please do take a number, and support the parish – only £2 monthly!

Prize Bingo: Eyes down **Friday 2nd October, at 7.00pm**. Items to give as prizes are always needed, such as: boxes of chocolates, sweets, boxes of biscuits, toiletries, vouchers, children's items, wine, and any other goodies that you may have at home. Can you help? **Please do come and support** this fund-raising initiative – it would be gratifying to see more parishioners at our Bingo! Many thanks to all who contributed items to this month's Bingo evening.

FINANCES

St Columba's no. 1	£ 270.24
St Columba's building fund:	£ 152.12
– Thank you for your generosity and support –	

St Columba's Accounts

General Running Account:	Building Account:
Sort Code: 80-91-26	Sort Code: 80-91-26
Account No: 00809358	Account No. 00809390

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Charlotte & John McPhee + Anna Black + Peggy Horne + Leslie Murray + Mary Gribben + Michelle Campbell + Claire Macpherson + Des Gair

Anniversaries: Malcolm MacDonald + Morag McInnes + Kate Anne McDaid + Bridget Tierney + Eddie Pocock.

GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

The Secular Franciscan Order meets at 2.00 pm on the second Saturday of each month at St Columba's, Culloden. Contact Helen MacGilp (01463 792149). Visit www.ofsgb.org.uk.

Prayer and Praise Group every Thursday at St Columba's after 7.30pm Mass in the Lady Chapel. Call Brian (01463 790255) for details.

Inverness Catenian Circle meet on the Second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm. Meeting followed by dinner in the Craigmonie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045.) Visit www.thecatenians.co.uk.

The Knights of St Columba meets on the first Monday of every month in the Marian Room at St. Mary's, at 7.30 pm: contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Dedicated to the principles of charity, unity & fraternity in the local parishes. Visit www.ksc.org.uk.