



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2016**

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, C**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 66: 18-21

Psalm: Ps 116: 1-2

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Luke 13: 22-30

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 21 August	<b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> (Second Collection: Building Fund)	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b>
Tuesday 23 August	Tuesday in the Twenty-First Week of the Year	Service of the Word and Holy Communion	7.30pm
Wednesday 24 August	Feast of St Bartholomew	Service of the Word and Holy Communion Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 25 August	Thursday in the Twenty-First Week of the Year	Service of the Word and Holy Communion	7.30pm
Sunday 28 August	<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> (Second Collection: Building Fund)	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b>

## Twenty-First Sunday of the Year: Gateway to Life

Jesus doesn't answer the question put to Him in this Sunday's Gospel. It profits us nothing to speculate on how many will be saved. What we need to know is what He tells us today - how to enter into salvation and how urgent it is to strive now, before the Master closes the door.

Jesus is "the narrow gate," the only way of salvation, the path by which all must travel to enter the kingdom of the Father (see John 14:6).

In Jesus, God has come - as He promises in this week's First Reading - to gather nations of every language, to reveal to them His glory.

Eating and drinking with them, teaching in their streets, Jesus in the Gospel is slowly making His way to Jerusalem. There, Isaiah's vision will be fulfilled: On the holy mountain He will be lifted up (see John 3:14), will draw to Himself brethren from among all the nations - to worship in the heavenly Jerusalem, to glorify Him for His kindness, as we sing in Sunday's Psalm.

In God's plan, the kingdom was proclaimed first to the Israelites and last to the Gentiles (see Romans 1:16; Acts 3:25-26), who in the Church have come from the earth's four corners to make up the new people of God (see Isaiah 43:5-6; Psalm 107:2-3).

Many, however, will lose their place at the heavenly table, Jesus warns. Refusing to accept His narrow way they will weaken, render themselves unknown to the Father (see Isaiah 63:15-16).

We don't want to be numbered among those of drooping hands and weak knees (see Isaiah 35:3). So we must strive for that narrow gate, a way of hardship and suffering - the way of the beloved Son.

As this week's Epistle reminds us, by our trials we know we are truly God's sons and daughters. We are being disciplined by our afflictions, strengthened to walk that straight and narrow path - that we may enter the gate, take our place at the banquet of the righteous. (Scott Hahn)

## GENERAL NEWS

**The National Pilgrimage to Carfin** in the Jubilee Year of Mercy takes place **on Sunday 4 September** and is in honour of *St Margaret*, Patroness of Scotland and an exemplary witness to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. **The Pilgrimage Mass will be celebrated at 3pm.** Principal Celebrant is Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, and the Homilist is Archbishop Leo Cushley. There will be opportunities for Confession before the Mass in St Francis Xavier's parish church and at points in the grotto, as well as a chance to pass through the parish church's Door of Mercy.

**Highland Deanery Annual Pilgrimage: Saturday 10 September 2016 – St Mary's, Beaulieu.** The Principal Celebrant will be **Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.** Mass begins at **12 noon** and is followed by a procession to the old Priory. The pilgrimage concludes with a picnic.

**Youth Ministry Formation Weekend at Kilcoy Castle! – Thursday to Sunday, 22-25 September 2016.** Accommodation is available for this weekend, which includes presentations by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB, the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, and youth ministers from the United States. The weekend will conclude with the celebration of Holy Mass. If interested, please contact Sister Christiana at: [ogilvie@dioceseofaberdeen.org](mailto:ogilvie@dioceseofaberdeen.org), or call 07938 729895.

## PARISH NEWS

**“Mother Teresa of Calcutta – Missionary of Mercy”: Saturday 3 September, at St Columba's.** The day, which begins with Mass at **10.00am**, is being organised to commemorate the great work and spirituality of Mother Teresa, on the eve of her Canonisation in Rome. The day will involve talks, film clips, poetry and prayer readings, and reflection. Everyone is warmly welcome. See our webpage for the full programme!

**FIRS Group:** The new 2016-2017 programme for the Friends in Retirement Group (FIRS) is available on our website. The first meeting of the new session takes place on **Wednesday 8 September, from 2.00pm.** Margaret Ryles will give a talk on the work of the Samaritans. All welcome.

**Day Workshop for Catechists ('old' and 'new') – Saturday 24 September at St Columba's, 9.30am-4.30pm.** This training day is for ALL Catechists! Please do come along and support this important event.

**Church cleaning** – Monday 9.30am: Margaret and Marie.

**“90 Club”:** Next Draw – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August. There are a few tickets still available; £2.00 monthly. Please ask Don.

**PRIZE BINGO:** The first ‘eyes down’ of the new session is **Friday 2nd September**. Items are needed to give as prizes for a line and full-house, if we are to continue the success of this fund raiser (toiletries, chocolates, candles, wine, and any other similar items). Thank you for the wonderful support you have given in the past.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray + Rhona MacGregor +

## GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

**The Secular Franciscan Order** meets at 2.00pm on the Second Saturday of each month at St Columba's, Culloden. Contact Helen MacGilp (01463 792149). Visit [www.ofs.gb.org.uk](http://www.ofs.gb.org.uk).

**Prayer and Praise Group** every Thursday in the Lady Chapel at St Columba's, after the 7.30pm Mass.

**Inverness Catenian Circle** meet on the Second Monday of every month, at 7.30pm (next meeting: 12 September). The meeting is followed by dinner at the Craigmonie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045). Visit [www.catenians.co.uk](http://www.catenians.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 (next meeting: 5 September): contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Visit [www.ksc.org.uk](http://www.ksc.org.uk).

**St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)** meets every fortnight, on Sundays, in the Marian Room at St Mary's, at 10.00 am (next meeting: 21 August). Requests for assistance and support can be made by contacting any SVP member or by dropping a note in a SVP collection box. Visit [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk).

**The St Mary's Parent & Toddler Group** meets on Wednesdays in the Marian Room, 11.00am – 2.45pm.

**The St Ninian's Parent & Toddler Group** is now on holiday. It will meet again when the schools resume in August. Enquiries to Jenny Wilson, tel. 07779 003434.

**.. and St Columba's Parent & Toddler Group??** Why not? We have a large number of Mums and kids in this parish. Let's think about organising our *own* group here!! We can easily obtain toys and other resources. Please speak to Fr Domenico if you are interested in getting involved.