



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

22 JULY 2018:
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm: Ps 22 (23)

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 22 July	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 24 July	Tuesday in the Sixteenth Week of the Year Mass Intention: Samuel Thomson, RIP	Evening Prayer Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 25 July	~ Feast of St James ~ SERVICE OF THE WORD & HOLY EUCHARIST	Service Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 26 July	St. Joachim and St. Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Intention: Eileen Webb, RIP	Mass	7.30pm
Sunday 29 July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Shepherd of Humanity

The Word of God this Sunday presents us once again with a fundamental, ever fascinating theme of the Bible; it reminds us that God is the Shepherd of humanity. This means that God wants life for us, he wants to guide us to good pastures where we can be nourished and rest. He does not want us to be lost and to perish, but to reach the destination of our journey which is the fullness of life itself. This is what every father and mother desires for their children: their good, their happiness and their fulfilment.

In today's Gospel Jesus presents himself as the Shepherd of the lost sheep of the House of Israel. He beholds the people, so to speak, with a "pastoral" gaze. For example, this Sunday's Gospel says: As he disembarked, "he saw a great throng, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things" (Mk 6:34). Jesus embodies God the Shepherd with his manner of preaching and his works, caring for the sick and sinners, for those who are "lost" (cf. Lk 19:10), in order to bring them back to safety through the Father's mercy.

Among the "lost sheep" that Jesus rescued there was also a woman called Mary, a native of the village of Magdala on the Sea of Galilee, who for this reason was known as "Magdalene". It is her liturgical Memorial in the Church Calendar of today. Luke the Evangelist says that Jesus cast out seven demons from her (cf. Lk 8:2), that is, he saved her from total enslavement to the Evil One. In what does this profound healing which God works

through Jesus consist? It consists in true, complete peace, brought about by the inner reconciliation of the person, as well as in every other relationship: with God, with other people and with the world. Indeed, the Evil One always seeks to spoil God's work, sowing division in the human heart, between body and soul, between the individual and God, in interpersonal, social and international relations, as well as between human beings and creation. The Evil One sows discord; God creates peace. Indeed, as St Paul says, Christ is our peace, he who made us both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh (cf. Eph 2:14).

In order to carry out this work of radical reconciliation Jesus the Good Shepherd had to become a Lamb, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29). Only in this way could he keep the marvellous promise of the Psalm: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me / all the days of my life; / and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord / for ever" (Ps 23[22]:6).

Dear friends, these words make our heart beat fast for they express our deepest desire, they say what we are made for: life, eternal life! These are the words of those who, like Mary Magdalene, have experienced God in their life and know his peace. They are words truer than ever on the lips of the Virgin Mary, who already lives for eternity in the pastures of Heaven where the Shepherd-Lamb led her. Mary, Mother of Christ our peace, pray for us! (Pope Benedict XVI, *Angelus*, 22 July 2012).

GENERAL NEWS

8-9 September: 'Celebrate Scotland' – at St. Ninian's High School, Giffnock, Glasgow. A weekend of faith-sharing and celebration for families of all sizes, young and old. The weekend is comprised of talks and workshops for adults, and faith-building activities for various age groups up to 21 years old; these are run by experienced catechists, teachers and youth ministers, along with the opportunity for lively worship, contemplative adoration, the celebration of Holy Mass, and individual prayer ministry:

Adults - £40

Children - £10

16-22 - £20

Under 5 - Free

All fees include Saturday evening meal. For further details, please see the posters and leaflets in the entrance foyer of the church.

Monastic Experience Weekend For Young Catholic Men at Pluscarden Abbey: Friday 3rd to Monday 6th August 2018. The community of monks at Pluscarden Abbey offer this special opportunity for participants to experience monastic life. It is suitable for single men who are Catholic, who practise their faith, and are between the ages of 18-35. There is no charge for the weekend. All Welcome. For further information, visit the 'Pluscarden Abbey' website, and click on the Monastic Experience Weekend page.

PARISH NEWS

A sincere 'Thank You!' to Canon Peter Barry and to the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Aberdeen for their extremely generous recent gift of **£5,000.00** to St. Columba's Building Fund. Fr. Domenico has written to Canon Peter and the parish on your behalf, thanking them all for their consideration and continuing support.

'Gaudete et Exsultate' Reading Group – we are putting together an informal reading group to look together at Pope Francis' new document on the theme of holiness, entitled 'Gaudete et Exsultate'. The group will meet **on Wednesday 1 August, from 7.00pm**, and thereafter on 8, 22, 29 August, and 5 September. If you would like to take part, please speak to Fr. Domenico, to give him an idea of interested numbers. Please note that the text is available for free online!

27 July: Holy Land Social Evening – an evening is being organised for all of the pilgrims who are travelling to the Holy Land in November with Fr. Domenico. In addition to getting to know one another, there will be a Q&A Session, with some typical Middle Eastern cuisine to try, and local music to enjoy! **The evening begins at 7.00pm.** Looking forward to seeing all our pilgrims: 27 at the last count!

Supporting the Parish – Going away on your Summer holidays? Why not set up a Standing Order to assist the Parish financially, and ensure that you are contributing to the continual growth of St. Columba's each and every week?! It's quick and easy to do; just speak to Ewen, our Treasurer, or to Fr. Domenico.

Hospital Admissions: if you, or any member of your family, is to be admitted to hospital, and would like a visit from Fr. Domenico, please do inform him. Please note that it is neither the duty, nor, indeed, the policy, of hospitals to inform priests and ministers when congregation members are admitted; the responsibility is placed solely on family and friends.

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? – Each year thousands of adults choose to become Catholics. They come from different backgrounds, and for different reasons: some are already Christians from other traditions; some are from another faith, or no faith at all; some are non-Catholics who have been coming regularly to Mass for years with their Catholic spouses or relatives. If you would like to know more about the Catholic faith, please speak to Fr Domenico.

Cleaning Team: Gigi and Shona – please speak to Don to arrange date and time! Would you like to help out? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

"90 Club" – Next Draw: Sunday 29 July. You can join in the fun too; ask Don for details. Only £2 monthly!

27 JULY: BINGO AT SMITHTON HOTEL – Smithton Hotel are hosting a Prize Bingo Night on Friday 27 July, beginning at 7.00pm. The evening is in aid of **SPINA BIFIDA SCOTLAND**. Why not go along and support this important cause?

ST COLUMBA'S PRIZE BINGO: NEXT MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. Non-perishable items to give as prizes are always needed. Thank you for your generosity! **Since last September, we have raised c. £ 3,500!** A sincere 'thank you' also to our marvellous helpers; your efforts are very much appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia & John Drew + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean + Ellen Williams + Eva Zandre + Richard Karasek + Brian Carr +

Anniversaries: + Nan Ward + Ellen Grant +