



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

23 JULY 2017:

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, A

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13,16-19

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85 (86):5-6,9-10,15-16

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 23 July	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 25 July	Feast of St James	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 26 July	Memorial of St Joachim and St Anne	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 27 July	Thursday of Week 16 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 30 July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Kingdom of Heaven

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realised until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of

yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the "weeds" prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. [www.loyolapress.com]

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

In facing weeds in the world, the Lord's disciple is called to imitate the patience of God, to nourish hope with the support of indestructible trust in the final victory of good, that is, of God.

GENERAL NEWS

Catenian Rosary Fund: following on from their work of dispatching rosaries to missions in Africa and Australia, the Catenian Association is now concentrating on providing white plastic rosaries to prisons where there is an urgent need. If you have any spare rosaries, could you please send them to Michael Blackburn at the following address: 164 Green Park Road, Halifax, HX3 0SP. For further information, contact: michael@jjbr.co.uk. All rosaries received will be acknowledged.

Wednesday 26 July: SVDP Outing to Pitlochry – this outing is **FREE for all Senior Citizens** (please take proof with you!). Depart King Street (street behind St Mary's) at **10.30am** after Morning Mass. High Tea included at Kingussie on the way home. Return to Inverness at approx. 7.00pm. If interested, please phone St Mary's Office on: 01463 233519.

Saturday 26 August: St Ninian's Summer Fair, 12 noon to 3.00pm – this fun-filled family day includes a barbeque lunch, with numerous stalls and events, raffles, a bouncy castle, and much more! Come along and join in the fun - all welcome!

Sunday 3 September: National Pilgrimage to Carfin, 2017 – In Honour of Our Lady of Fatima, and with the Consecration of Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. **Mass begins at 3.00pm.** Principal Celebrant: Archbishop Philip Tartaglia; Homilist: Bishop Brian McGee.

PARISH NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS! – to our venerable parishioner John Drew, who is 90 years young today! Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable day, John! *Ad multos annos!*

New Altar Servers? – we are building an excellent team of youngsters as Altar Servers at St Columba's, and we are always very happy to welcome more new recruits! Any child who has received First Holy Communion is encouraged to consider helping the Parish Liturgy by serving at Mass. Full training will be given!

Highland Deanery Day for Altar Servers: Saturday 19 August, from 10.30am – 4.00pm. We have organised a special day for all Altar Servers on 19 August. **This is a 'three-line whip', 'MUST ATTEND event' for our present servers!** The Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Mr George Brand, is coming from Aberdeen to instruct us all on the finer points of Serving, and there will be fun activities, lots of food, and friendship for our young people!

Singing Group: would you like to be involved in an informal singing group in our parish? The purpose of the group would be to meet every so often with the musicians, to look at new hymns and help with singing at the Sunday Mass. We are hoping to begin this group in September. If this sounds ideal to you (no pun intended!), please speak to Fr Domenico, or to the musicians.

Living Faith Scripture Course: "From Genesis to Jesus – Unlocking the Bible" – Part 6 ("The Son King: Fulfilment of the Covenant"), focusing on Jesus, will be held on **Wednesday 26 July, at 7.00pm.** This is our final meeting, and there will be an opportunity to discuss the entire course, and to look at future possible courses. All ideas welcome! Come and join us!

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: Monday 24th at 9.30am – Margaret, Marie and Evelyn. Anyone offering to help to keep the church nice and clean only needs to give one hour a month. You won't be left on your own! Ask Don for details.

"90 Club": Draw next week, on Sunday 30 July – Would you like to join in? There are a few numbers left – only £2 a month. All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO: there is a break over the months of July and August. **NEXT EYES DOWN IN SEPTEMBER!** However, we always appreciate non-perishable items to give as prizes; they are much needed (chocolates, wine, toiletries, stationery, or any item you would like to win)! Can you help? Your support is essential! Very many thanks to all who contribute to make our fundraiser so successful!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia and John Drew + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Lachlan MacNeil + Rose Corbett + Murray Mackay + Eilidh MacPherson

Anniversaries: + Nan Ward + Ellen Grant + Edwin Wales +