



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

24TH JULY 2016

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, C

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 18: 20-32

Psalm: Ps 137: 1-3, 6-8

2nd Reading: Colossians 2: 12-14

Gospel: Luke 11: 1-13

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 24 July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 26 July	Memorial of St Joachim and St Anne	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 27 July	Wednesday in the Seventeenth Week of the Year	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 28 July	Thursday in the Seventeenth Week of the Year	Mass	7.30pm
Sunday 31 July	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Mission Appeal: Holy Ghost Fathers)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: The School of Prayer

So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

This Sunday's readings are about prayer and, more specifically about petitionary prayer. We are invited to pray to God for what we need in the expectation that God will answer our prayers and will give us what is good for us.

In Genesis we see Abraham bartering with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, beating down the price like a customer in an Oriental market place, a little more each time until Abraham gets God down to just ten people. In the Gospel the disciples ask Christ to teach them how to pray and He gives them the Lord's prayer, with its simple set of petitions, and encourages them to persist in prayer with the vivid example of the reluctant friend, cajoled into giving what is wanted, despite every attempt to refuse.

So, we are invited to pray for concrete things, the things we need, the things we judge to be good for us. And such petitionary prayer is part of what we might call the dignity and fulfilment, even the adventure, of what it means to be human beings, created in the image and likeness of God. Thomas Aquinas tells us that God wills to bring about things in answer to our prayers. God gives us the dignity of being able to share in His work of providence by our own actions, in praying for things to come about, so that we can acquire confidence in God and recognise him as the origin of what is good for us.

However, if there is one kind of prayer that is unpopular with us and perhaps more unpopular with us in the modern age than ever before, it is such petitionary prayer. We feel reluctant to ask for concrete things, because we feel that very often such prayers are not answered.

Such a view is understandable, but wrong. Faith tells us that God does answer all our prayers. However, the consequence of what faith tells us must be true is perhaps even more difficult for us to understand and accept. We must believe

that God does answer all our prayers, but the reality must then be that the answer is so often no, no to the particular thing that we ask for. God does bring about good things in answer to our prayers, but what that good might be is often very different from any expectation and understanding we might have. If we ask, it is given to us; if we seek, it is found; and if we knock, the door is opened, but what is given and found is not what we might have expected.

And, at this point, we are challenged to undertake a difficult, but very worthwhile, journey in the purification of our desires, as we seek to make better sense of what are the goods that God wants us to pray for, so that there can be a better conformity of what we ask for and what God gives, so that our will can be conformed more fully to God's will. Prayer schools us in our faith and forces us to recognise ways in which we settle for lesser goods or even wrong goods.

And it's here that we come to the recognition that for such purification of our desires we have to be open to the Spirit praying within us, conforming our prayers to the will of God. As St Paul teaches in the letter to the Romans: 'The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words' (Romans 8: 26).

Such a journey in the purification of our desires as we persist in prayer, docile to the Spirit working within us, will scarcely remove the difficulties we often have in making sense of God's providence. We will end up sometimes silent like Job in the face of the mystery of God. And yet the more deeply we enter the journey of prayer, the more concrete our relationship with God becomes, the more truly we can call God, 'Father,' and the more fully we can realise the wonderful dignity we do have as human beings, as called to share in the work of God in bringing about the good of the world. (Fr Martin Ganeri, OP)

GENERAL NEWS

“Youth Rally for Jesus” – Stratherrick, 20 August 2016: Jesus our Liberator, our Healer, our Friend, our Companion. A Day of Discovery, Adventure, and Devotion, at Stratherrick (IV2 6UL), from 10:00am to 5.00pm. **FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE.** Phone 01463 233519, or e-mail: stmarysinverness@btinternet.com.

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.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage, 22-29 October 2016 – Departing from Aberdeen. TOTAL COST: £650.00 (includes flights and half-board accommodation). Deposit of £100 required. Single room supplement: £130. For further details, contact Irma Allan, on (01224) 869889, or 07714 718708.

PARISH NEWS

Funeral Mass of Anthony (Tony) Murphy – Monday, 25 July at 11.30am, here at St Columba’s. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tony, and pray also for Karen, Murray, Tracy, Mark, and all the family at this difficult time.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Amoris Laetitia Reading Group: come along to our informal, relaxed reading group, where we’ll explore and share some of the ideas in Pope Francis’ new teaching document, *Amoris Laetitia* (the Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family). We meet together **on Wednesdays, 7.00pm-8.30pm**, Full details on our parish website. Please note that our **next meeting takes place on Wednesday 27 July**, and we’ll be looking at Chapters 5 and 7 (Children).

NEXT SUNDAY: MISSION APPEAL – Next Sunday’s Mass will be a **Mission Appeal by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (‘Holy Ghost Fathers’)**. The Holy Ghost Fathers are based throughout the UK, and there is a community at Carfin, near Motherwell. Fr John McFadden will be with us, to tell us more about their important work.

“Mother Teresa of Calcutta – Missionary of Mercy”: **Saturday 3 September, at St Columba’s.** This day event, from 10.00am onwards, 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. More details to follow!

Easyfundraising – have you tried it?

It’s really simple, and doesn’t cost you anything!

All you have to do is:

1. Go to

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcolumbasculloden>

2. Sign up for free

3. **Get shopping** - your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to St Columba’s Church, Culloden. It couldn’t be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St Columba’s Church, Culloden will be really grateful for your donations.

Thus far, we have raised over £23.00, from 8 parishioners. It may not seem much, but imagine how much we might raise with 80 such supporters?! Try it – it’s free! Every little helps!

A big “Thank You” – to everyone who contributes to the smooth running of the Parish: to those who help with the liturgy (Sacristans, Catechists, Altar Servers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers, Musicians, Passkeepers); to those who maintain the beauty and wellbeing of the church (Cleaners, Gardeners, Flower-arrangers), and to all of you who support St Columba’s by your prayers, by your presence at Mass and at our various events, by your much-appreciated financial assistance, and by your kindness. Your help is vital!

Church cleaning – Tuesday 9.30am: Margaret and Marie (Nairn) – subject to change.

“90 Club”: The next draw is **Sunday 31st JULY.** You could be a winner too! There are a few tickets still available if you would like to join – only £2 monthly; please ask Don for information.

PRIZE BINGO: Our Fundraiser Bingo will soon return after the Summer break, in September, on the first Friday of the month. Non-perishable items can still be handed in, and they will be safely stored until September. Thank you for your wonderful generosity and support.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O’Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray +

Anniversaries: + Baby Edwin Waters + Nan Ward + Ellen Grant +

RIP: Anthony Murphy

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.ofsgb.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: 8 August). The meeting is followed by dinner at the Craigmonie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045). Visit 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: 1 August): contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Dedicated to the principles of charity, unity & fraternity in the local parishes. Visit 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: 24 July). 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.