



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**24 SEPTEMBER 2017:
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 6-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144 (145): 2-3, 8-9, 17-18

2nd Reading: Philipians 1: 20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 24 September	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 26 September	Op. Memorial of Sts Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs	NO MASS	-
Wednesday 27 September	Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest	NO MASS	-
Thursday 28 September	Op. Memorial of St Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs	NO MASS	-
Sunday 1 October	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Working for the Lord

You may remember that when I addressed the crowd in St Peter's Square on the day of my election it came naturally to me to introduce myself as a labourer in the vineyard of the Lord. Well, in today's Gospel (cf. Mt 20: 1-16), Jesus recounted the very same parable of the owner of the vineyard who at different hours of the day hires labourers to work in it. And in the evening he gives them all the same wages, one denarius, provoking protests from those who began work early. That denarius clearly represents eternal life, a gift that God reserves for all. Indeed those who are considered the "last", if they accept, become the "first", whereas the "first" can risk becoming the "last". The first message of this parable is inherent in the very fact that the landowner does not tolerate, as it were, unemployment: he wants everyone to be employed in his vineyard. Actually, being called is already the first reward: to be able to work in the Lord's vineyard, to put oneself at his service, to collaborate in his work, is in itself a priceless recompense that repays every effort. Yet only those who love the Lord and his Kingdom understand this: those who instead work only for the pay will never realise the value of this inestimable treasure.

It is St Matthew who recounts this parable, an apostle and an evangelist. I like to emphasise that Matthew lived this experience in the first person (cf. Mt 9: 9). Indeed, before Jesus called him he worked as a tax collector and was therefore seen as a public sinner, excluded from "the Lord's vineyard". But everything changed when Jesus

passed by his table, looked at him and said to him: "Follow me". Matthew rose and followed him. From a publican he immediately became a disciple of Christ. From being "last" he found himself "first", thanks to God's logic, which - for our good fortune! - is different from the logic of the world. "My thoughts are not your thoughts", the Lord says, speaking through the mouth of Isaiah, "neither are your ways my ways" (Is 55: 8). St Paul, for whom we are celebrating a special Jubilee Year, also experienced the joy of feeling called by the Lord to work in his vineyard. And what a lot of work he accomplished! Yet, as he himself confessed, it was God's grace which worked in him, that grace which from persecutor of the Church transformed him into an Apostle to the Gentiles, to the point of saying: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain". However he immediately added: "If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell" (Phil 1: 21-22). Paul clearly understood that working for the Lord is already a reward on this earth.

The Virgin Mary is the perfect branch of the Lord's vine. In her germinated the blessed fruit of divine love: Jesus, our Saviour. May she help us to respond constantly and joyously to the Lord's call and to find our happiness in toiling for the Kingdom of Heaven. (Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 21 September 2008)

GENERAL NEWS

Saturday 7 October: "A Day with Pope John Paul II", in Honour of Our Lady of the Rosary – at St Mary's Church, High Street Beaulieu (IV4 7AU). The day is aimed at the pre- and early teens, and runs from 10.00am-3.30pm. See the poster.

Friday 27-Sunday 29 October: Retreat for Mothers of Children and Teens – hosted by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, at Kilcoy Castle. To register, or for further details, please contact Sr Anna Christi OP at: op@rcda.scot. See the poster on the notice board.

PARISH NEWS

Call for volunteers: can you help the Parish? – we are very short of volunteers, and are looking for: **4 CLEANERS** to join the present team. Why not pair up with a friend to help? Only 1 HOUR a month! **2 PASSKEEPERS** – this involves standing in the entrance foyer and ensuring that latecomers are able to locate a seat at the start of Mass. Not very demanding, but much needed, as our numbers continue to grow! Can you help? Please speak to Fr Domenico.

Items for Blythwood Trust shoeboxes: Ainsley is collecting items for shoeboxes for the Blythwood Trust. She would be grateful for any of the following items: sewing kits, candles, screwdrivers and kitchen utensils, as well as toiletries (no talcum powder), stationery, new make-up, clothes (t-shirts, pyjamas, jumpers, shirts, etc.). Donations of shoeboxes welcome as well. In order to make up the boxes, **we would be grateful if all items could be handed in to St Columba's by Sunday 22nd October.** Many thanks.

Piety Stall: our 2018 Catholic diaries are now in stock, together with lots of tempting gifts, holy items, and spiritual books. Why not browse the stall?

Inverness Foodstuff: Request for Volunteers – Our project was established in 2015 and provides hot meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Drop-in Centre at Ness Bank Church for those who are homeless and vulnerable. The Drop-in Centre also has the services of the Highland Council Benefits Team, the NHS Dental Team, the NHS Harm and Reduction Team together with Community Nursing Staff. We are hoping to extend the project and open on Saturday afternoons for soup, sandwiches, IT and board games, and are looking for volunteers to staff this. If you are interested and can spare a few hours each week, fortnightly, or monthly we would be delighted to have your help. For further information contact Agnes Fraser on 07521145539 or email invernessfoodstuff@gmail.com.

Sacrament of Confirmation, 2018: Any young person who would like to be considered for the Confirmation preparation class should speak to Fr Domenico, Helen, or Ewen, to register their interest.

4 October: Memorial of St Francis – the Secular Franciscan Order will lead us in the Transitus service, which begins at 10.30am. This service prayerfully narrates the death of St Francis; followed by a Service of the Word and Holy Communion at 11.00am Mass. All are invited to join with members of the local fraternity for the celebration and for refreshments.

St Columba's Mothers and Toddlers Group – this group will be starting after the half-term holidays, on **Monday 23 October onwards, from 9.30am-11.30am.** The group is looking for the following items: a slide, small trikes, baby buggies / prams, baby seats and mats, musical instruments, and any toys that people feel will be useful. If you would like to donate items, or help in any way with this group, please speak to Fr Domenico or to Clare Greig after Sunday Mass, or email clareoke@yahoo.com.

"CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS" is coming to St Columba's!! – This is a multi-part film series that focuses on a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but also transformed the course of civilisation. Join us, on **Wednesday 25 October at 7.00pm**, and throughout the month of November, as we discover some of the 'pivotal players' who shaped the Church and changed the world!

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 26th September at 4.30pm: Margaret and Don. Anyone offering to help to keep the church nice and clean only needs to give one hour a month. See Fr Domenico or Don for details.

"90 Club": DRAW TODAY AFTER MASS! Good luck to all who have a ticket; if you'd like one, there's still time – only £2 a month! All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO – Next eyes down: Friday 6 October at 7.00pm! Come and take part in a fun-filled family evening. Refreshments provided during the interval! Items to give as prizes are always required. Your support is much appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Amelia & John Drew + Rose Corbett + Murray Mackay + Peter Simpson + Morag MacIntyre +

R.I.P: + Kenneth MacIntyre +

Anniversaries: + Malcolm MacDonald + Morag McInnes + Kate Anne McDaid + Bridget Tierney + Eddie Pocock + Donald Angus MacCormick +