



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

Psalm: Ps 116 (117)

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

25 AUGUST 2019:

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,
YEAR C**

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 25 August	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 27 August	St. Monica Mass Intention: Private Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 28 August	St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	NO MASS AT ST. COLUMBA'S	---
Thursday 29 August	The Beheading of St. John the Baptist Mass Intention: Amelia Drew RIP (Anniversary)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 30 August	Friday of Week 21 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Mary Vincent RIP (Anniversary)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon
Saturday 31 August	Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Intention: Private Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.30 am 11.00 am
Sunday 1 September	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time: Pass Through the Door!

Today's Gospel passage urges us to meditate on the topic of salvation. St Luke the Evangelist tells us that while Jesus was travelling to Jerusalem, he was approached by a man who asked him this question: "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" (Lk 13:23). Rather than giving a direct answer, Jesus shifts the issue to another level in an evocative way, which the disciples don't understand at first: "strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able" (v. 24). Using the image of a door, he wants his listeners to understand that it is not a question of numbers — how many will be saved —, how many is not relevant, but rather, it is important for everyone to know the way that leads to salvation.

This way means entering through a door. But where is the door? Who is the door? Jesus himself is that door. He says so in the Gospel of John: "I am the door" (10:9). He leads us to communion with the Father, where we find love,

understanding and protection. But why is this door narrow, one might ask? Why does he say it is narrow? It is a narrow door not because it is oppressive, but because it demands that we restrain and limit our pride and our fear, in order to open ourselves to Him with humble and trusting hearts, acknowledging that we are sinners and in need of his forgiveness. This is why it is narrow, to limit our pride, which swells us. The door of God's mercy is narrow but is always open to everyone! God does not have preferences, but always welcomes everyone, without distinction. A narrow door to restrain our pride and our fear; a door open wide because God welcomes us without distinction. And the salvation that He gives us is an unending flow of mercy that overcomes every barrier and opens surprising perspectives of light and peace. The door is narrow but always open wide: do not forget this. (Pope Francis, Angelus Address, St. Peter's Square, 21 August 2016)

GENERAL NEWS

Congratulations to Father Dominic Nwaigwe on his ordination to the Priesthood at St. Mary's, Inverness, on Tuesday 20 August. The beauty of the Ordination Mass was enhanced by the exuberant singing and colours of the African choir and community, who celebrated joyfully this wonderful event. For more information, including photographs, and a copy of the Ordination Booklet, see St. Columba's website.

The Relics of St. Thérèse: coming to our Diocese!

– In an extraordinary spiritual gift to all of us, the relics of the Little Flower, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, will be coming to our Diocese, 9-11 September 2019.

The dates are as follows:

- Monday 9th September at 7.00pm:
Arrival at St. Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen.
- Tuesday 10th September:
at St. Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen.
- Wednesday 11th September at 11.00am:
Arrival at Pluscarden Abbey.
- **Wednesday 11th September**
- **5.00pm: Arrival at St. Mary's, Inverness**
- **7.00pm: Mass with the Relics**
- **Overnight Vigil with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, and other devotions.**
- **Thursday 12th September: 10.00am Mass with the school children**
- **12 noon: Angelus and departure of the relics**

18-25 September: Pilgrimage to Medugorje with Fr. Andrew Niski. A place of prayer, reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration, inspired by the profound experience of the presence of our Heavenly Mother, the Queen of Peace. **Flying out of Inverness with BA, cost £600 – B&B, flight and transfers included.** First-time pilgrims warmly welcomed – please contact Fr. Andrew for more details and to book a place: niski.a@gmail.com; 07749732781.

PARISH NEWS

Congratulations to our younger parishioners on their scholarly successes! We now have future accountants, teachers, and veterinary surgeons in our congregation! Thank God for their wonderful achievements, borne of hard work and dedicated application. **The words of the Prophet Jeremiah come to mind:** "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you... plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Light of the North – The Summer issue is now available in the foyer; please take one. There are articles on the Diocesan pilgrimage to Pluscarden (p. 4), and the recent Annual Mass at Scalán Seminary (p. 9), Remember that all donations to LOTN go to the parish!

Friday 20 September, 7-9 pm – "Baptised and Sent: Living and Passing on the Catholic Faith".

We are delighted to be able to host internationally renowned speaker **David Wells**, for what will surely be an engaging and inspiring evening, and an ideal preparation for Missionary Month in October. It is a real privilege to have a speaker of David's calibre at St. Columba's – please spread the word about this special event!

Highland Foodbank – Harvest Appeal: Your donations help to provide emergency food and support to local people in crisis. As part of our Harvest Appeal, we would be grateful for the following items: * **Long Life Juice** * **Tins of Potatoes** * **Tins of Mince/Stew** * **Oatcakes/Crackers** * **Tins of Ham** * **Shower Gel/Shampoo.** Please leave these items in the plastic box at the front door of the church. Thank you!

Confirmations 2020 – preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin in the Autumn. **If you are starting S1 this year, or if you are already in Secondary School**, please register initial interest with Fr. Domenico.

BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP: the group will begin again **tomorrow, 26 September**, from 9.30am to 11.30am. We are looking for new children to join the group, and to take part in the fun! Why not come along?

CLEANING TEAM – Monday 26th August at 12.00 noon: Esther, Eilidh, and Don. If anyone would like to join in and help, please speak to Don. It's only once a month, and it helps to keep our church fresh and clean!

"90 Club": DRAW TODAY, after Mass. Good luck to all who have a number!

PARISH BINGO – Our fabulous prize Bingo will soon return, in September! Non-perishable items can still be handed in for storing. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Vinnie Walton + Michael Good + Laura Johnstone + Fr. George Hutcheon + Norman Wood + Helen Macdonald + John Macdonald +

Anniversaries: + Hector MacLean + Mary Bell + Amelia Drew + Mary Vincent + James Zanre +