



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

25 JUNE 2017:

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, A

~ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS ~

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20: 10-13

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 68 (69): 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

2nd Reading: Romans 5: 12-15

Gospel: Matthew 10: 26-33

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 25 June	TWELTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR ~ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS ~ Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 27 June	Tuesday of Week 12 in Ordinary Time Votive Anniversary Mass	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 28 June	Memorial of St Irenaeus	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 29 June	SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER & ST PAUL ~ HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION ~	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 2 July	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Pope Francis remembers his First Holy Communion..

On a visit to a Roman parish on Sunday evening [14 December 2014], the Pope had lively discussions with various groups from the congregation, including children preparing to receive their First Communion. He told them about his own First Communion 70 years ago.

In greeting the children, he said, **“There are those of you here who are going to make their First Communion. Do you know? This year was the 70th anniversary of my First Communion: 70 years ago I made my First Communion. A long time ago, no? I made it on October 8, 1944.”**

He said he remembered the occasion “as if it were today.”

“I was prepared, for a year, by a very good Sister, who was called Dolores. [...] And also the catechists, both were called Alice. They taught us. Then the day arrived. [...] And we all entered the church with our hands stuck together, like this ... and we sang, a song that perhaps you know: ‘O holy altar, guarded by the Angels, I come to you for the first time.’ [...] But I shall never forget that day.”

Noting that later in the day he received Confirmation, the Pope invited them, **“You, who will make your First Communion, always remember that day your whole life: the first day that Jesus came in to us. He comes, makes himself one with us, makes himself our food, our nourishment to give us strength.”**

Adding that they should also remember the catechists, the Pontiff said that when the Sister who prepared him for Communion died on October 17, 1987, **“I went there**

and was there with her, and I prayed so much, because that Sister brought me close to Jesus. Don’t forget the catechists, all right? Don’t forget the date, ok? And every year, on the date, go make a good Confession and Communion: all right?”

Later, after thanking the sick for their ministry in the Church, he met with the families of those recently baptised.

“In Baptism, you gave the faith, you transmitted the faith through the Sacrament, but after many years, they will do the same with their children, and thus the faith — from the time of Jesus to today — is like a chain that is transmitted by parents. And this is a beautiful responsibility! Don’t forget the day of your Baptism, don’t ever forget it!” he said. The Pope explained that he was baptised on Christmas day, eight days after his December 17 birthday, because “at that time it was the custom — at least in Argentina — to baptise children eight days after their birth.”

“I pray for you. May you have joy, joy with these children, joy in the home, joy in hope, so much joy. And I give you my blessing,” he said.

Then he concluded with a final reflection: “What I wanted to say is this: children cry, make noise, go from one side to the other ... and I am so annoyed when a child cries in church and people want him to go outside. No! It is the best homily! The cry of a child is God’s voice. Truly, never, never chase them out of the church! Thank you so much!”

[Source: ZENIT, 15 December 2014]

GENERAL NEWS

TODAY! (Sunday 25 June): Diocesan Pilgrimage to Pluscarden – This event provides a perfect opportunity for a beautiful liturgy, and for relaxing in the grounds of Pluscarden Abbey, with the chance to meet people from other parishes within the Diocese. At the conclusion of the Mass, which will be led by Bishop Hugh Gilbert, there will be a Marian procession to the garden in front of St Benedict's Retreat, weather permitting of course. We look forward to the participation of a good number of parishioners in the day's liturgy, particularly in the singing and readings of the Mass, also during the procession into the garden. The programme for the day will be as follows:

1.00pm–3.00pm: Exposition in the Lady Chapel.

1.00pm–3.00pm: Individual confessions available in the parlours at St. Benedict's Retreat.

3.30pm: Mass (please note the time) followed by a Marian procession, with hymns and devotions in the garden facing St Benedict's Retreat.

PARISH NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS! – to Ava, Caitlyn, Keira, Molly, Joel, Olivier, and Thomas, who made their First Holy Communion today. Be assured of our continuing support for you all!

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! 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 games, fun activities, lots of food, and friendship for our young people. More details to follow!

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 2 will be on Wednesday 28 June, at 7.00pm. This informal course will give an overview of the Old and New Testaments, and will take the form of visual presentations, with discussion and Bible reading! Come and join us! All welcome!

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 26 June at 9.30 am – Margaret and Marie. 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 TODAY AFTER MASS!! Good luck to all those who have a number. Would you like to join in? There are a few numbers left – only £2 a month. All profits go to our Building Fund.

PRIZE BINGO: NEXT EYES DOWN THIS FRIDAY, 30TH JUNE, at 7.00PM! Come and join the fun! Last chance before the holidays! There will be a break over the months of July and August. Non-perishable items to give as prizes 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 +

Anniversaries: + Angela Prendergast + John Sloan + Tom Waters +