



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015**  
**Thirtieth Sunday of the Year B**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm: 125:1-6

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 25 October	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year B (2nd Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Wednesday 28 October	Saints Simon and Jude - Feast	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 29 October	Thursday of Week 30 in Ordinary Time B	Mass	19.30
Sunday 1 November	Solemnity of All Saints ~ 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Columba's ~ (2nd Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available every Sunday before Mass, and at any other time upon request.

### Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) – Seeing the Son of David

Today's Gospel turns on an irony--it is a blind man, Bartimaeus, who becomes the first besides the apostles to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. And His healing is the last miracle Jesus performs before entering the holy city of Jerusalem for His last week on earth.

The scene on the road to Jerusalem evokes the joyful procession prophesied by Jeremiah in today's First Reading. In Jesus this prophecy is fulfilled. God, through the Messiah, is delivering His people from exile, bringing them back from the ends of the earth, with the blind and lame in their midst.

Jesus, as Bartimaeus proclaims, is the long-awaited Son promised to David (see 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 23:5). Upon His triumphal arrival in Jerusalem, all will see that the everlasting kingdom of David has come (see Mark 11:9-10).

As we hear in today's Epistle, the Son of David was expected to be the Son of God (see Psalm 2:7). He was to be a priest-king like Melchizedek (see Psalm 110:4), who offered bread and wine to God Most High at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18-20).

Bartimaeus is a symbol of his people, the captive Zion of which we sing in today's Psalm. His God has done great things for him. All his life has been sown in tears and weeping. Now, he reaps a new life.

Bartimaeus, too, should be a sign for us. How often Christ passes us by--in the person of the poor, in the

distressing guise of a troublesome family member or burdensome associate (see Matthew 25:31-46)--and yet we don't see Him.

Christ still calls to us through His Church, as Jesus sent His apostles to call Bartimaeus. Yet how often are we found to be listening instead to the voices of the crowd, not hearing the words of His Church.

Today He asks us what He asks Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" Rejoicing, let us ask the same thing of Him--what can we do for all that He has done for us?

### Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"This is the logic of discipleship, it is what the Holy Spirit does with us and in us. One day Jesus saw us on the side of the road, wallowing in our own pain and misery. He did not close his ear to our cries. He stopped, drew near and asked what he could do for us. And thanks to many witnesses, who told us, 'Take heart; get up,' gradually we experienced this merciful love, this transforming love, which enabled us to see the light. We are witnesses not of an ideology, of a recipe, of a particular theology. We are witnesses to the healing and merciful love of Jesus. We are witnesses of his working in the lives of our communities." (Meeting with clergy and religious, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 9 July 2015)

## GENERAL NEWS

**St Mary's October Talks:** on **Wednesday 28 October**, Fr James Bell will present a 50-minute reflection, with prayer and discussion, in the Marian Room, at St Mary's, from 6.30pm until 7.20pm. The topic is 'Apostolic Witness'.

**Ceilidh / Buffet, Saturday 21 November:** this event will take place at the Craigmonie Hotel, and is in aid of World Youth Day 2016. Ticket prices: £20 per person, Children £1 per year (*B&B at rate of £60 per room, book directly with hotel*). Tickets available from Deacon Patrick Darbyshire, Brian and Margaret Lamond, and St Mary's Parish Office.

**Catenian Christmas Dinner: Friday 4 December:** 7.00pm for 7.30pm, until midnight, at the Inverness Golf Club, on Culcabock Road. Licensed Bar and Raffle. £25.00 per head. For tickets, please contact Tony Lightfoot (tel: 236495) or Joe Campbell (tel: 790888).

## PARISH NEWS

### Mary Gribben and Peggy Horne, R.I.P.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Gribben and Peggy Horne, who both passed away this week. A Memorial Service for Mary will be held at St Columba's on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 12.30pm. All are welcome.

**'Faith in Film' Evening:** this month's film is entitled **"Of Gods and Men"** (2010), and will be screened on **Wednesday 28 October, from 7.00pm**. Eight French monks live in harmony with their Muslim neighbours in a monastery near Tibhirine, in the mountains of Algeria, in the 1990s. When a crew of foreign workers is massacred by an Islamic fundamentalist group, fear sweeps through the region. The army offers them protection, but the monks refuse. Should they leave? Despite the growing menace in their midst, they slowly realize that they have no choice but to stay... come what may. **In French with English subtitles**. Certificate 15 (120 minutes).

**Next's Sunday's Double Celebration:** next Sunday, **1 November**, is a double celebration. Not only is it the Solemnity of All Saints, but it is also the 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Columba's!! The Mass will be offered for all our parishioners, past as well as present, and there will be a celebration in our Meeting Room after Mass, with cakes and other goodies. **Please do bring along something delicious!**

### Shoebox Appeal

Ruairidh Macdonald went to Romania in the summer along with 7 fellow pupils from Culloden Academy, to work with underprivileged children, through Blythwood Care. He spent two weeks working with very poor children. He and one or two others from the group are going back in mid-December to deliver filled shoeboxes from Blythwood, including his own, and any that our community would wish to donate. There is a leaflet on the noticeboard explaining the items sought. Parishioners are invited to donate a full box, or items for a box, for Ruairidh to deliver. These include the usual items, such as: toothbrushes and toothpaste, toiletries, hats, scarves, gloves, stationery, sewing kits, etc. Please do support this, if you can. We are lucky to have one of our very own parishioners delivering the boxes personally. **Donations need to be handed in before Friday 6th November.**

## FOR YOUR DIARIES

**FIRS (Friends in Retirement):** the next meeting of the FIRS group will take place at St Columba's on **Thursday 12 November, 2.00-4.00pm**. The guest is Mr Ramsay McGhee (Music and Quiz). All welcome!

### Weekday Mass Provision at St Columba's

From the week beginning 9 November onwards, the weekday Mass provision at St Columba's will be as follows:

Tuesday Mass: 7.30 pm;  
Wednesday Mass: 11.00 am; Exposition: 11.30 am  
Thursday Mass: 7.30 pm  
Friday Mass: 11.00 am; Exposition: 11.30 am

During the forthcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy, the **Sacrament of Confession will be available 30 minutes before each Mass.**

**The Year of Mercy:** in order to prepare ourselves for the forthcoming Year of Mercy instituted by Pope Francis (beginning on 8 December), I have ordered a number of specially-produced **prayer cards** for the parish, together with **booklets from CTS**. The booklets contain information on the Year of Mercy, together with prayers and lots of spiritual and practical ideas on how to get the most out of the year. These will be available in November, price **only 50p each**. In addition, I will be offering **two Evenings of Reflection in November**. The format will be as follows: a short talk, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, some quiet time for personal reflection, and concluding with Benediction. The evenings of reflection begin at 7.00pm:

**Wed 11 November: Introducing the Year of Mercy.**

**Wed 18 November: Pope Francis, the Pontiff of Mercy.**

**St Columba's "Iona Group"** for teenagers will meet on **Saturday 14 November from 5.00pm until 7.30pm**. Come along for a relaxing evening, with a good movie ("Soul Surfer", Certificate PG), some delicious food, and fine company! All this, and the opportunity to meet other young people your age! See you there!

**Church cleaning:** Tuesday at 4.30pm – Margaret and Rhona.

**'90 Club':** our draw takes place today, after Mass. Good luck to all who have a number. Would you like to join us? Only £2 monthly! Please see Don for details.

**Prize Bingo – the fun continues on 6 November!** Eyes down at **7.00pm**. A warm welcome awaits you. Many thanks to everyone for the donations of items to give out as prizes. **Why not come along and join us at this fund-raising initiative?!**

## FINANCES

St Columba's no. 1	£ 354.98
(of which, Missio Scotland Special Collection	£ 153.11)
St Columba's Building Fund	£ 79.92
– Thank you for your generosity and support –	

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** Audrey O'Connell + Anna Black + Leslie Murray  
+ Michelle Campbell + Laura Johnstone