



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**26 AUGUST 2018:
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18

Psalm: Ps 33 (34): 2-3, 16-23

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 21-32

Gospel: John 6: 60-69

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 26 August	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Kerala Floods Emergency Appeal	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 28 August	Memorial of St. Augustine, Bishop, Doctor Mass Intention: Catrina Greig (health and intentions)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 29 August	The Beheading of St. John the Baptist Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 30 August	Thursday of Week 21 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 2 September	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: SCIAF Rohingya Appeal	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time: A Choice to Make

This Sunday's Mass readings conclude a four-week meditation on the Eucharist.

The Twelve Apostles in today's Gospel are asked to make a choice—either to believe and accept the New Covenant He offers in His Body and Blood, or return to their former ways of life.

Their choice is prefigured by the decision Joshua asks the Twelve Tribes to make in today's First Reading.

Joshua gathers them at Shechem—where God first appeared to their father Abraham, promising to make his descendants a great nation in a new land (see Genesis 12:1-9). And he issues a blunt challenge—either renew their covenant with God or serve the alien gods of the surrounding nations.

We too are being asked today to decide whom we will serve. For four weeks we have been presented in the liturgy with the mystery of the Eucharist—a daily miracle far greater than those performed by God in bringing the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.

He has promised us a new homeland and eternal life, offering us bread from heaven to strengthen us on our journey. He has told us that unless we eat His Flesh and drink His Blood we will have no life in us.

It is a hard saying, as many murmur in today's Gospel. Yet He has given us the words of eternal life. We must believe, as Peter says today, that He is the Holy One of God, who handed himself over for us, who gave His flesh for the life of the world.

As we hear in today's Second Reading, Jesus did this that we might be sanctified, made holy, through the water and word of Baptism by which we enter into His new covenant. Through the Eucharist, He nourishes and cherishes us, making us His own flesh and blood, as husband and wife become one flesh.

Let us renew our covenant today, approaching the altar with confidence that, as we sing in today's Psalm, the Lord will redeem the lives of His servants. (Scott Hahn).

GENERAL NEWS

SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER: HIGHLAND DEANERY PILGRIMAGE in honour of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – at Christ the King, Brora. Mass at 12 noon. Celebrant: the Most Reverend Mario Conti, Archbishop Emeritus of Glasgow, and former Bishop of Aberdeen. Please put this date in your diaries!

Sunday 9 September: Annual Pilgrimage to pray for the Beatification of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair – this annual pilgrimage will take place on from 2.00pm to 6.00pm at St Patrick's Church, Cowgate, in Edinburgh. 2pm: Opening; 3pm: 'The Story of Margaret Sinclair, Servant of God'; 4.30 pm: Holy Mass.

Saturday 15 September: The Salvation Army International Staff Songsters – at 7.30pm in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Ardross Street, Inverness, IV3 5NS. Ticket prices: £10 Adults; £5 for under-16s, plus booking fee. Available from Eventbrite: <https://the-international-staff-songsters.eventbrite.co.uk>

PARISH NEWS

Mary's Meals Kerala Floods Emergency Appeal: Recent flooding in Kerala has left an estimated 725,000 people seeking refuge in relief camps and in need of humanitarian assistance. **Mary's Meals** has been working in India since 2004, serving daily school meals to more than 20,000 children across the country. Working with their longstanding partner, BREAD, Mary's Meals is ready to respond to this devastating situation, by providing essential food supplies directly to those in need of nourishment. Rice packs will be distributed to the people of Kerala, some of whom may not have eaten for days, who are seeking safety and shelter in relief camps. **You can support this Appeal by handing in your donations in an envelope marked 'Kerala Emergency Appeal' to St. Columba's, or by contributing to our Second Collection today.**

'Gaudete et Exsultate' Reading Group – why not come along to our informal reading group, focusing on Pope Francis' new document on holiness, 'Gaudete et Exsultate'? The next meeting of the group will be on **Wednesday 29 August, from 7.00pm**. We will be looking at Chapter 4 of the document. If you would like to take part, please feel free to come along and join us – all welcome!

Photo Exhibition at St. Columba's, sponsored by Justice & Peace Scotland/SCIAF – Nearly 700,000 Rohingya refugees fled for their lives to Bangladesh last year, having experienced unimaginable horrors at the hands of the Myanmar military. They're now living in poverty in a giant refugee camp. Scottish photographer Simon Murphy travelled to the

Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh in December to see SCIAF's work with Caritas Bangladesh to help some of the most vulnerable refugees. Whilst he was there, he took a series of powerful photographs to document the plight of this people. SCIAF's Director Alistair Dutton commented that: "Simon's pictures tell heart-breaking stories and give real insight into the nightmare the Rohingya people have been through. When you come face to face with his remarkable images it will be impossible not to be moved by them." **The free exhibition will be at St. Columba's from Saturday 1 September–Tuesday 4 September.**

Supporting the Parish – Going away on your Summer holidays? Why not set up a Standing Order to assist the Parish financially, and ensure that you are contributing to the continual growth of St. Columba's each and every week?! It's quick and easy to do; just speak to Ewen, our Treasurer, or to Fr. Domenico.

Hospital Admissions: if you, or any member of your family, is to be admitted to hospital, and would like a visit from Fr. Domenico, please do inform him. Please note that it is neither the duty, nor, indeed, the policy, of hospitals to inform priests and ministers when congregation members are admitted; the responsibility is placed solely on family and friends.

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 28th August – Mary and Karen. Would you like to help out? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

"90 Club": DRAW TODAY AFTER MASS! – Three prizes to be won. There are a few numbers available; would you like one? Only £2 monthly! Ask Don for details.

ST COLUMBA'S PRIZE BINGO: BEGINS AGAIN ON FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER AT 7.00PM! – it's almost time to get the pens out! Items to give as prizes are always needed to make our fundraiser successful: chocolates, gift packs, wine, gift vouchers, shortbread, toiletries, aftershave, etc. (smaller items are given as line wins). Help on the evening is always gratefully accepted and appreciated! Thank You.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia & John Drew + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean + Ellen Williams + Eva Zanre + Richard Karasek + Brian Carr + Catrina Greig +

Anniversaries: + Mary Bell + Jock Parker + John Tracey + Hector MacLean +