



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

27 AUGUST 2017:

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, A

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 22: 19-23

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137 (138): 1-3, 6, 8

2nd Reading: Romans 11: 33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 27 August	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 29 August	Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 30 August	Wednesday in the Twenty-First Week of the Year	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 31 August	Thursday in the Twenty-First Week of the Year	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 3 September	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: “Who Do You Say That I Am?”

This Sunday's Gospel reading (Mt 16:13-20) is a well-known passage, central to Matthew's account, in which Simon, on behalf of the Twelve, professes his faith in Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God”; and Jesus calls Simon “blessed” for this faith, recognizing in him a special gift of the Father, and tells him: “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church”.

Let us pause on this very point, on the fact that Jesus gives Simon this name, “Peter”, which in Jesus' language is pronounced “*Kefa*”, a word which means “rock”. In the Bible this term, “rock”, refers to God. Jesus gives it to Simon not because of his character or for his merits as a human, but for his *genuine and steadfast faith*, which comes to him from above.

Jesus feels great joy in his heart because, in Simon, he recognizes the hand of the Father, the work of the Holy Spirit. He recognizes that God the Father has given Simon “steadfast” faith on which He, Jesus, can build his Church, meaning his community, that is, all of us. Jesus intends to give life to “his” Church, a people founded no longer on heritage, but on *faith*, which means on the relationship with Him, a relationship of love and trust. The Church is built on our relationship with Jesus. And to begin his Church, Jesus needs to find solid faith, “steadfast” faith in his disciples. And it is this that He must verify at this point of the journey. The Lord has in mind a picture of the structure, an image of the community like a building. This is why, when he hears Simon's candid profession of faith, he calls him a “rock”,

and declares his intention to build his Church upon this faith.

[...] what happened in a unique way in St Peter, also happens in every Christian who develops a sincere faith in Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Today's Gospel passage also asks each of us, is your faith good? Each one answer in his or her heart. Is my faith good? How does the Lord find our hearts? A heart that is firm as a rock, or a heart like sand, that is doubtful, diffident, disbelieving? It will do us good to think about this throughout the day today. If the Lord finds in our heart, I don't say a perfect, but sincere, genuine faith, then He also sees in us living stones with which to build his community. This community's foundation stone is Christ, the unique cornerstone. On his side, Peter is the rock, the visible foundation of the Church's unity; but every baptized person is called to offer Jesus his or her lowly but sincere faith, so that He may continue to build his Church, today, in every part of the world.

Even today, so many people think Jesus may be a great prophet, knowledgeable teacher, a model of justice.... And even today Jesus asks his disciples, that is, all of us: “Who do you say that I am?”. What do we answer? Let us think about this. But above all, let us pray to God the Father, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary; let us pray that He grant us the grace to respond, with a sincere heart: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”. This is a confession of faith, this is really “the Creed”. Let us repeat it together three times: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”. [Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 24 August 2014]

GENERAL NEWS

‘LSU Memories’ – “As suggested by the ‘Friends of La Sainte Union’, it would be really good to collect memories of Sr Barbara, Sr Teresa, and Sr Eva. I would ask everyone who went to Mass at Duncan Forbes school, or who was a member of St Mary’s parish, between 1985-2003, to get their thinking caps on! These Sisters did so much to build up the parishes in Inverness! Were you in Catechism classes, or prepared for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation by any of these Sisters? People will have many memories when they start thinking about this. If you have any information, please contact Jane MacMaster at: janeruth@btinternet.com.”

Sunday 3 September: National Pilgrimage to Carfin, 2017 – In Honour of Our Lady of Fatima, and with the Consecration of Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. **Mass begins at 3.00pm.** Principal Celebrant: Archbishop Philip Tartaglia; Homilist: Bishop Brian McGee.

Saturday 9 September: Deanery Pilgrimage to Fortrose – Mass in the church of St Peter and St Boniface. Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB. Poster in the foyer. All welcome!

Saturday 23 September: “Jesus the Healer” – a Day of Recollection led by Fr Domenico, at St Mary’s, Beaulieu. The day begins at 10.30am, and includes: Holy Mass; Talk; Group Discussion; Lunch; Exposition and Adoration; and Sacrament of Confession. The day concludes with Benediction at 2.30pm. See the poster and parish website for details!

PARISH NEWS

Sacrament of Confirmation, 2018: we are now beginning to plan for next year’s sacramental preparation classes. 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, in order to give us an idea of numbers.

Training for Altar Servers, new and old! – Our first meeting for NEW Servers will take place on **Thursday 14 September, from 5.00pm-5.30pm.** All NEW would-be Servers are encouraged to attend this first meeting! Please speak to Fr Domenico beforehand to register your interest. Meanwhile, further training for our CURRENT group of Servers will also begin on

Thursday 14 September, from 5.30pm-6.00pm. Please speak to Fr Domenico if you are unable to attend.

Faith in Film Evening: Wednesday 13 September, from 7.00pm: *Courageous* – As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes and their partners willingly stand up to the worst the world can offer, yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood. While they consistently give their best on the job, they quickly discover that their children are beginning to drift further away from them. When tragedy hits home, these men are left with a newfound urgency to renew their faith and reach out to their own children. Will they be able to find a way to serve and protect those who are most dear to them? Certificate: 12 (c. 120 minutes).

Friday 22 – Sunday 24 September: “Filled to Overflowing” – Faith Formators’ Retreat and Workshops, held at St Columba’s, Culloden. See the poster on the noticeboards for the full programme. For further details, or to register your interest, please e-mail ogilvie@rcda.scot, or phone 01343 547806.

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 29 August 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. You won’t be left on your own! Ask Don for details.

“90 Club”: DRAW TODAY, after Mass!! Good luck to all who have a ticket! Only £2 a month. All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

OUR PRIZE BINGO begins NEXT WEEK, on Friday 1 September! Eyes down at 7.00pm! Come and take part in a fun-filled family evening. Refreshments provided during the interval! Thanks to the generosity of so many of you we have some lovely prizes to be won. Your support is much appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O’Connell + Amelia and John Drew + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Rose Corbett + Murray Mackay +

RIP: + Lachlan MacNeil +

Anniversaries: + Walter Grant + Hector MacLean +