



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016**

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3: 19-21, 30-31

Psalm: Ps 67: 4-7, 10-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24

Gospel: Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 28 August	<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> (Second Collection: Building Fund)	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b>
Tuesday 30 August	Tuesday in the Twenty-Second Week of the Year	Service of the Word and Holy Communion	7.30pm
Wednesday 31 August	Wednesday in the Twenty-Second Week of the Year	Service of the Word and Holy Communion Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 1 September	Thursday in the Twenty-First Week of the Year	<b>Mass</b>	7.30pm
Sunday 4 September	<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> (Second Collection: Building Fund)	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b>

### Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year: Who's the Greatest? (Fr Isidore Clarke OP)

At a formal meal, seating arrangements are important. Usually the most distinguished guests sit at the top of the table. To avoid the embarrassing situation described in today's Gospel a wise host will decide the order of precedence beforehand. Here Jesus makes fun of those pretentious people who scrambled for the most prestigious places, only to be demoted lower on the arrival of someone of greater importance. How ridiculous would the status-seeker then appear! All would have had a good laugh -- except the butt of Christ's observation! Beware, Jesus must be getting at you and me, whenever we have an inflated idea of our own importance!

But Jesus wasn't interested in table etiquette, nor in helping us to avoid public humiliation! Still less is he urging a false humility in the hope that people, recognising our true worth, will give us a more prestigious place. Such a person would simply be a crafty status seeker -- far worse than someone who simply grabbed the best seat.

This meal, like all the others in the Gospels, anticipated the heavenly banquet. Here Jesus is telling us that we are not the ones to decide which position we deserve. Our very presence at the heavenly banquet is God's gift. None of us deserves this. He will overturn our sense of priorities and will give the highest places to those whom the worldly consider to be the least important.

The meal described in today's Gospel provides an interlude on Christ's journey to Jerusalem and the cross. That context gives special force to the folly of being status seekers.

Jesus himself came to serve, not to be served. While Adam fell through his pride leading him to strive to become equal to Almighty God, the Son of God emptied himself of the glory which was his by right. Jesus became humble and obedient, even to death on the cross. The God of glory became despised and rejected. And yet it was precisely in his lowliness that Jesus revealed his true greatness. On the

cross he showed the power and generosity of his love for his heavenly Father and for us sinners. Jesus, who lowered himself to become the least, was raised to become the first in the Kingdom of Heaven. The crucified Christ shows us where our true greatness lies. Not in the honour or status we may bestow on ourselves, but in following Jesus along the way of the cross. Like him, we are called to serve, rather than be served, to give of ourselves, rather than grab for ourselves. Sometimes that will be costly, painful and humiliating. But, with the grace of God, this will bring out the very best in us. And God will give us a place of honour at his heavenly banquet. We Christians could easily make the mistake of thinking that this parable was directed at the Pharisees alone. If so, we should remember that the disciples were forever bickering among themselves as to which of them was the greatest. The sons of Zebedee even sought privileged positions in the Kingdom.

The full meaning of this parable is brought home forcefully in the light of the Last Supper. As Jesus and the apostles celebrated the salvation God had brought to his people in the past, Christ committed himself to saving the world through his death on the cross. While he was preparing to be brought low, his followers were striving to exalt themselves. They started arguing as to which of them was the greatest -- immediately after Jesus had celebrated the first Eucharist and had prophesied that one of them would betray him. What a dreadful, frightening irony! This should warn all who are too full of their own importance. Possibly any one of us!

Certainly we should take God very seriously. But let's be able to laugh at ourselves and our ridiculous posturing. That's far better than God and other people despising us as pretentious fools! Rather than our instinctively thinking we're the greatest, we should humbly recognise the dignity and worth of other people -- and leave the ranking to God.

## GENERAL NEWS

**The National Pilgrimage to Carfin** in the Jubilee Year of Mercy takes place **on Sunday 4 September** and is in honour of *St Margaret*, Patroness of Scotland and an exemplary witness to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. **The Pilgrimage Mass will be celebrated at 3pm.** Principal Celebrant is Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, and the Homilist is Archbishop Leo Cushley. There will be opportunities for Confession before the Mass in St Francis Xavier's parish church and at points in the grotto, as well as a chance to pass through the parish church's Door of Mercy.

**Highland Deanery Annual Pilgrimage: Saturday 10 September 2016 – St Mary's, Beaulieu.** The Principal Celebrant will be **Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.** Mass begins at **12 noon** and is followed by a procession to the old Priory. The pilgrimage concludes with a picnic.

**Youth Ministry Formation Weekend at Kilcoy Castle! – Thursday to Sunday, 22-25 September 2016.** Accommodation is available for this weekend, which includes presentations by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB, the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, and youth ministers from the United States. The weekend will conclude with the celebration of Holy Mass. If interested, please contact Sister Christiana at: [ogilvie@dioceseofaberdeen.org](mailto:ogilvie@dioceseofaberdeen.org), or call 07938 729895.

## PARISH NEWS

**Fr Domenico returns** from his Summer break on Thursday 1 September (Mass at 7.30pm as usual); he is very much looking forward to seeing you all again!!

**“Mother Teresa of Calcutta – Missionary of Mercy”:** **Saturday 3 September, at St Columba's.** The day, which begins with Mass at **10.00am**, is being organised to commemorate the great work and spirituality of Mother Teresa, on the eve of her Canonisation in Rome. The day will involve talks, film clips, poetry and prayer readings, and reflection. Everyone is warmly welcome. See our webpage for the full programme!

**FIRS Group:** The new 2016-2017 programme for the Friends in Retirement Group (FIRs) is available on our website. The first meeting of the new session takes place on **Wednesday 8 September, from 2.00pm.** Margaret Ryles will give a talk on the work of the Samaritans. All welcome.

**Day Workshop for Catechists ('old' and 'new') – Saturday 24 September at St Columba's, 9.30am-4.30pm.** This training day is for ALL Catechists! Please do come along and support this important event.

**Church cleaning** – Tuesday 4.30pm: Margaret and Don.

**“90 Club”: DRAW TODAY AFTER MASS!!** – Good luck to all who have a number! There are a few tickets still available; £2.00 monthly. Please ask Don.

**PRIZE BINGO – FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER!!** ‘Eyes down’ at 7.00pm. Many thanks to all who donated such marvellous prizes. Your help is crucial in making this fundraiser such a success for the parish.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray + Rhona MacGregor +

**Anniversaries:** + Jim McKelvie + Hector MacLean +

## GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

**The Secular Franciscan Order** meets at 2.00pm on the Second Saturday of each month at St Columba's, Culloden. Contact Helen MacGilp (01463 792149). Visit [www.ofsgb.org.uk](http://www.ofsgb.org.uk).

**Prayer and Praise Group** every Thursday in the Lady Chapel at St Columba's, after the 7.30pm Mass.

**Inverness Catenian Circle** meet on the Second Monday of every month, at 7.30pm (**next meeting: 12 September**). The meeting is followed by dinner at the Craigmonie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045). Visit [www.catenians.co.uk](http://www.catenians.co.uk).

**The Knights of St Columba** meets on the first Monday of every month in the Marian Room at St. Mary's, at 7.30 pm (**next meeting: 5 September**): contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Visit [www.ksc.org.uk](http://www.ksc.org.uk).

**St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)** meets every fortnight, on Sundays, in the Marian Room at St Mary's, at 10.00 am (**next meeting: 4 September**). Requests for assistance and support can be made by contacting any SVP member or by dropping a note in a SVP collection box. Visit [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk).

**The St Mary's Parent & Toddler Group** meets on Wednesdays in the Marian Room, 11.00am – 2.45pm.

**The St Ninian's Parent & Toddler Group** is now on holiday. It will meet again when the schools resume in August. Enquiries to Jenny Wilson, tel. 07779 003434.

**.. and St Columba's Parent & Toddler Group??** Why not? We have a large number of Mums and kids in this parish. Let's think about organising our *own* group here!! We can easily obtain toys and other resources. Please speak to Fr Domenico if you are interested in getting involved.