



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**29 OCTOBER 2017:  
THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 22: 20-26

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 17 (18): 2-4, 47, 51

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22: 34-40

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 29 October	<b>THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>
Tuesday 31 October	Tuesday of Week 30 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 1 November	<b>SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS</b> <b><u>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</u></b>  <b>9<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION</b> <b>OF ST COLUMBA'S</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b> <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> ** <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>EVENING MASS</b>	<b>10.30 am</b> <b>11.00 am</b> <b>11.30 am</b> ** <b>7.00 pm</b> <b>7.30pm</b>
Thursday 2 November	Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 5 November	<b>THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

## November: Month of the Holy Souls

The first two days of the month of November constitute for all of us an intense moment of faith, prayer and reflection on the "last things" of life. In fact in celebrating all the Saints and in commemorating all the faithful departed, in the Liturgy, the pilgrim Church on earth lives and expresses the spiritual bond that unites her to the Church in heaven. On All Saints' Day, we praise God for the countless host of saints from all ages: simple and ordinary men and women, who were at times "last" for the world, but "first" for God. At the same time we remember our departed loved ones by visiting the cemeteries during this month of November: it is a source of great consolation to think that they are in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, the martyrs and all the saints of Heaven!

The Solemnity of All the Saints thus helps us to consider a fundamental truth of the Christian faith that we profess in the "Creed": the *communion of saints*. What does this mean: the communion of saints? It is the communion born from faith that unites all those who belong to Christ through Baptism. It is a spiritual union — we are all united! — that is not broken by death, but continues in the next life. Indeed, there is an unbreakable bond between us living in this world and those who have crossed the threshold of death. We, here on earth, along with those who have entered into eternity, form one great family. This familiarity endures.

This wonderful communion, this wondrous union between heaven and earth takes place in the highest and most intense

way in the Liturgy, and especially in the celebration of the Eucharist, which expresses and fulfils the most profound union between the members of the Church. In the Eucharist, we in fact encounter the living Jesus and His strength, and through Him we enter into communion with our brothers and sisters in the faith: those who live with us here on earth and those who have gone before us into the next life, the unending life. This reality fills us with joy: it is beautiful to have so many brothers and sisters in the faith who walk beside us, supporting us with their help, and together we travel the same road toward heaven. And it is comforting to know that there are other brothers and sisters who have already reached heaven, who await us and pray for us, so that together in eternity we can contemplate the glorious and merciful face of the Father.

In the great assembly of saints, God wanted to reserve the first place for the Mother of Jesus. Mary is at the centre of the communion of saints, as the singular custodian of the bond between the universal Church and Christ, of the bond of the family. She is Mother, She is *our* Mother. For those who want to follow Jesus on the path of the Gospel, she is a trusted guide because she is the first disciple. She is an attentive and caring Mother, to whom we can entrust every desire and difficulty.

Let us pray together the Queen of All Saints, that she may help us to respond with generosity and faithfulness to God, who calls us to be holy as He is Holy (cf. Lev 19:2; Mt 5:48). [Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 1 November 2014]

## GENERAL NEWS

**Tuesday 21 November: Gabriel Society** – “The Media and the Catholic Press”. To be held in the Marian Room, at 32 Huntly Street, beginning at 7.00pm. All welcome!

**Saturday 25 November: St Andrew’s Night Dance** – Live music & dance featuring Scottish & Polish tunes from **The Brothers Band** and **DJ Coli** on **Saturday 25 November from 8.00pm until 2.00am**, in the St. Mary’s Church Hall. Food will be available, but please feel free to take along something to eat and drink (no bar). Ticket prices £15. Tickets from Parish Office ask for PJ - 01463 233519. Reserve your tickets for this most popular St. Andrew’s event.

## PARISH NEWS

**November – Month of the Holy Souls:** November is the month when we remember our dearly departed. If you would like to have any deceased relatives or friends remembered at Mass during November, please place their names in the brown envelopes in the foyer, and hand these in to the Sacristy. All names will be placed in front of the altar, and a selection will be read out at every Mass. All offerings received will be donated to our Building Fund.

**St Columba’s Mothers and Toddlers Group: every Monday, from 9.30am-11.30am!** We had a terrific first meeting of this group, with **10 children, plus parents and grandparents – and more people who are interested in coming in future weeks!** Thank you for your donations of toys: any other items, such as a slide, small trikes, baby buggies / prams, baby seats and mats, or musical instruments, would be gratefully received. Children’s tables and chairs are ordered, and on their way to us. Thank you also for your practical and prayerful support of this group – it gives younger parents a chance to meet and speak with one another, and for our children to play and make friends in a safe, supportive environment. If you would like to help in any way with this group, please speak to Fr Domenico or to Clare Greig after Sunday Mass, or for more details, please email: [clareoke@yahoo.com](mailto:clareoke@yahoo.com).

**Lighting up St Columba’s: #RedWednesday** – This autumn, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is asking us to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians throughout the world, and with all who suffer for their peacefully-held beliefs. ACN will be holding a **week of events from 19 – 26 November, with #RedWednesday as the highlight on Wednesday 22 November**. Red is the Christian colour of martyrdom. Christians are the most persecuted faith group in today’s world, and #RedWednesday will honour all Christians who suffer and die for their faithfulness to Christ’s message of peace and love, and will shine a light on Christian persecution, but will also highlight the injustices perpetrated against other faith groups. To mark our own solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters, St Columba’s will be

floodlit red during the month of November. For further details, please see: <https://acnuk.org/campaign/redwednesday/>

**ST COLUMBA’S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Wednesday 13 December, 7.00pm – 8.00pm.** Back by popular demand – a date for your diaries! As per last year, we will be hosting a service of your favourite Christmas carols, with community singing (that means you!) together with seasonal Scripture readings, with festive food and drink provided (non-alcoholic mulled wine, mince pies, and other goodies). We have invited a special guests to join us!! Donations at the door will be gratefully accepted – suggested offerings are: £5 for adults; kids go free! All proceeds go towards our Building Fund. Why not invite some friends and come along? Spread a little festive cheer!

**“CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS”** returns to St Columba’s on **Wednesday 8 November at 7.00pm**, as we look at the monumental figure of **ST THOMAS AQUINAS** (“The Theologian”): The relationship of faith and reason is under intense scrutiny in an age beholden to the competing claims of fundamentalism and secularism. So called “new atheists” insist that the claims of religion amount to mere superstition, a retrograde holdover from a time long ago. Others insist that the life of faith is a retreat into emotions and subjectivism. St. Thomas Aquinas anticipated these objections and trends and demonstrated that to believe is to think and that the life of the mind is integral to life in Christ.

**“90 Club” – Draw takes place TODAY AFTER MASS!!** You could be our next winner if you have a number; only £2 monthly. All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

**PRIZE BINGO: THIS FRIDAY, 3 November, at 7.00pm.** All welcome! Come and take part in a fun-filled family evening. Refreshments provided during the interval! Items to give as prizes are always required items to give as prizes always needed (we are particularly short of chocolates, and of wines and spirits; we’d also appreciate smelly candles, toiletries, gift vouchers, tins of sweets/biscuits..). Your support is much appreciated!

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Audrey O’Connell + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Amelia & John Drew + Rose Corbett + Murray Mackay + Peter Simpson + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson +

**Anniversaries:** + John Horne + Tom O’Connor + Renzo Serafini + Cathie Mackenzie