



St. Columba's, Culloden

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Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

2ND AUGUST 2015

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15

Psalm: 77: 3-4, 23-25, 54

2nd Reading: Ephesians 4: 17, 20-24

Gospel: John 6: 24-35

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 2 August	Eighteenth Sunday of the Year B (2nd Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Wednesday 5 August	Wednesday of Week 18 in Ordinary Time	Communion Service & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 6 August	The Transfiguration of the Lord (Feast)	Mass	19.30
Sunday 9 August	Nineteenth Sunday of the Year B (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.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) – The Eucharist, part II: a sacred meal.

Last week, we began our reflections about the Eucharist and the Mass by taking an overview of them; now, we'll explore the Eucharist and the Mass as a meal - a sacred or special meal.

This is a good starting point, because the Eucharist is founded upon the "Last Supper" that Jesus celebrated with His disciples. So, let's reflect a bit more on meals and eating together and what we then understand by calling the Mass a sacred meal.

Meals and eating are vital - literally - to our human life. We eat to survive, of course, but eating together is so much more than this. It is rich in meaning and symbolism.

Eating together builds up connections and relationships; often, we share memories and new ones are made, and we can build up bonds and strengthen ties and identity. This is why key moments or events in our lives are often sealed with some sort of meal: weddings, anniversaries, graduations.

It should not surprise us that God has taken this very human action of eating together, with all its deeper significance and associations, and chosen it as the way of being with us and of building up our Church family.

In fact, God has done this over the ages. In Israel, there were many types of sacred meals. Many meals involved giving thanks to God for the good things of creation and for all that He had done for His people. God sealed the covenant with His people with a meal (Exodus 24: 9-18) and the annual Passover meal remembered in a real and living way that God had rescued His people from slavery, that He had made them His people and led them to the promised land.

All this is also true for the Eucharist that we celebrate and that was instituted by Jesus Christ, where He used the staple food of bread and wine. We gather, we celebrate, we

remember and we give thanks for all that God has done for us; we deepen our bonds with God and each other - which is why we offer each other the sign of peace just before going to communion - and we have our identity as disciples of the Lord (or the Church, the 'Body of Christ') strengthened and affirmed.

The high point is that we are fed by Jesus Christ Himself: "This is my body; this is my blood." In this feeding, we also become like the one we receive. St. Thomas Aquinas once commented that the Eucharist differs from ordinary food: When we eat food and digest it, it becomes part of us; with the Eucharist, we become part of the one we have received and consumed.

Therefore, we really do enter a 'holy communion' with the Lord. Of course, we are not worthy of such a great gift, which is why we echo the words of the centurion in the Gospel: "Lord, I am not worthy..." (Matthew 8:8).

In our busy lives, we don't always have the opportunity with family or friends to sit down and to eat together. We can also easily forget the rich symbolism of the Eucharist as a sacred meal, since most of us are blessed with plenty of food, it is easy to take food and eating for granted. The same can be true for the Eucharist. We can forget what a great gift it is, what is happening when we celebrate this sacred meal, what it means - and who we are receiving.

The following verses are taken from a hymn about the Eucharist, written by St. Thomas Aquinas 800 years ago:

"O thou, our reminder of Christ crucified,

Living bread, the life of us for whom He died.

Lend this life to me then, feed and feast my mind,

There be thou the sweetness, man was meant to find."

(Rev. Anthony Barrett)

GENERAL NEWS

Highland Deanery Pilgrimage, Saturday 22 August: St Duthac Collegiate Church, Tain: Mass 1200 noon. Principal Celebrant: Archbishop Mario Conti. This year, the Deanery pilgrimage coincides with celebrations to commemorate the granting of a Papal Bull to Tain. After Mass, there will be a procession to the Old Church of St Duthac. After Prayers and a hymn, we will join Archbishop Mario Conti and people at St Vincent's Church in Tain, for Highland refreshments. Please mark this in your diaries so that we can make it a very special event.

Special Clachan Comar Mass of St Bean, Sat 29 August. A special Mass will be celebrated for those who are interred at Clachan Comar, nr Tomich, Marydale/Cannich, at 3.00 pm, on Sat 29 August – a date for your diary!

Martin Aelred concert, Wed 2 September, at 7.30pm: contemporary tenor and classical guitarist Martin Aelred is returning to Inverness to perform 'Around the world in 80 minutes', at St. Mary's. Martin Aelred has performed for the Dalai Lama and HRH Prince Charles, as well as for presidents and prime ministers at the United Nations in New York, and at cathedrals and churches across the UK. There is an "Early Bird Discount" of **£2.00 on all tickets purchased before 15 August**. Prices: Adults: £10; Concessions/OAPs: £8; Student/Child: £5. With the Early Bird Discount, the following reduced prices apply: Adults £8, Concessions/OAPs: £6; Student/Child: £3.

PARISH NEWS

Installation Mass with Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB: Bishop Hugh is coming to St Columba's next month for a special Mass on **12th August at 7.00pm** (time to be confirmed), to install Fr Domenico as Parish Priest. Please put this date in your diaries! We are looking for volunteers to help with catering. Can you help?

'World Youth Day' for Teenagers and Young Adults: this will take place on **5 September 2015** at St Columba's. The day is aimed at young people throughout the Highland Deanery; it will be an opportunity to meet one another, to enjoy a meal in good company, and to share our faith. Gaynoll Craig will be giving a presentation on next Year's World Youth Day in Krakow, and we will look at developing different initiatives for our young people. Please do join us! Watch this space for more information!

Altar Servers: Calling all young people – would you like to help your Parish? As long as you have made your First Holy Communion, you can serve! Full training provided. Please see Fr Domenico.

'90' Club: Winners for July: 1st: Pat; 2nd: Eilidh; 3rd: Donnie. Next draw Sunday 30th August. There are numbers available if anyone would like to join in.

St Columba's Prize Bingo: starts again soon. We are in great need of non-perishable items to be given as prizes, in order to continue the success of this major fund-raising initiative. Thank you for your help.

Cleaning Team – Wednesday at 4.30pm: Rhona and Anne-Marie.

Gardening: no gardening this week. Many thanks for your help with the weeding and grass cutting, etc.

Tea and Coffee: come along and join us for a cuppa and a chat after Mass, in our meeting room at the end of the corridor.

FINANCES

19 July 2015

St Columba's no. 1	£ 244.43
St Columba's building fund:	£ 94.73

26 July 2015

St Columba's no. 1	£ 305.56
St Columba's building fund:	£ 184.95

– Thank you for your generosity and support –

St Columba's Accounts

General Running Account:	Building Account:
Sort Code: 80-91-26	Sort Code: 80-91-26
Account No: 00809358	Account No. 00809390

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black + Peggy Horne + Leslie Murray + Mary Gribben + Claire Macpherson + Michelle Campbell

Anniversaries: + Bill Esselmont + Charlie Keeler + Virla MacLennan + Howard Nicolls

GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

The Secular Franciscan Order meets at 2.00 pm on the second Saturday of each month at St Columba's, Culloden. Contact Helen MacGilp (01463 792149). Visit www.ofsfb.org.uk.

Prayer and Praise Group every Thursday at St Columba's after 7.30pm Mass in the Lady Chapel. Call Brian (01463 790255) for details.

Inverness Catenian Circle meet on the Second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm. Meeting followed by dinner in the Craigmonie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045.) Visit www.thecatenians.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: contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Dedicated to the principles of charity, unity & fraternity in the local parishes. Visit www.ksc.org.uk.

The Parents & Toddlers Group meets on Wednesdays from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm in the Marian Room beside St Mary's.

The Cenacolo Prayer Group meets every Monday after the 6:00 pm Mass in St. Mary's. All welcome.

St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) meets every fortnight, on Sundays, in the Marian Room at St Mary's, at 10.00 am. 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.