



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

30 JULY 2017:

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, A

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118 (119)

2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 30 July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 1 August	Memorial of St Alphonsus Liguori	NO MASS	-
Wednesday 2 August	Wednesday of Week 17 in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	-
Thursday 3 August	Thursday of Week 17 in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	-
Sunday 6 August	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Treasures of the Kingdom

What is your new life in Christ worth to you? Do you love His words more than gold and silver, as we sing in today's Psalm? Would you, like the characters in the Gospel today, sell all that you have in order to possess the kingdom He promises to us? If God were to grant any wish, would you follow Solomon's example in today's First Reading—asking not for a long life or riches, but for wisdom to know God's ways and to desire His will?

The background for today's Gospel, as it has been for the past several weeks, is the rejection of Jesus' preaching by Israel. The kingdom of heaven has come into their midst, yet many cannot see that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promises, a gift of divine compassion given that they—and we, too—might live.

We too must ever discover the kingdom anew, to find it as a treasure - a pearl of great price. By comparison with the kingdom, we must count all else as rubbish (see Philippians 3:8). And we must be willing to give up all that we have—all our priorities and plans—in order to gain it.

Jesus' Gospel discloses what Paul, in today's Second Reading, calls the purpose of God's plan (see Ephesians 1:4). That purpose is that Jesus be the firstborn of many brothers.

His words give understanding to the simple, the childlike. As Solomon does today, we must humble ourselves before God, giving ourselves to His service. Let our prayer be for an understanding heart, one that desires only to do His will.

We are called to love God, to delight in His law, and to forsake every false way. And we are to conform ourselves daily ever more closely to the image of His Son.

If we do this, we can approach His altar as a pleasing sacrifice, confident that all things work for the good—that we whom He has justified, will also one day be glorified. [Scott Hahn]

The martyrs teach us that wealth, prestige and honor have little importance: Christ is the only true treasure.

Pope Francis



GENERAL NEWS

Inverness Street Pastors: Are you interested in finding out more about volunteering as an Inverness Street Pastor? We have daytime, nighttime and Prayer Pastor opportunities. Please come along to the Information Event on Wednesday 2 August, from 7.30pm – 9.30pm, at ‘The Hub’, Inverness Baptist Church, 83 Castle Street, Inverness. For further information, please call or text 07752 099966, or send an e-mail to: robyn@loveinverness.org.

Catenian Rosary Fund: following on from their work of dispatching rosaries to missions in Africa and Australia, the Catenian Association is now concentrating on providing white plastic rosaries to prisons where there is an urgent need. If you have any spare rosaries, could you please send them to Michael Blackburn at the following address: 164 Green Park Road, Halifax, HX3 0SP. For further information, please contact: michael@jjbr.co.uk. All rosaries received will be acknowledged.

Saturday 26 August: St Ninian’s Summer Fair, 12 noon to 3.00pm – this fun-filled family day includes a barbeque lunch, with numerous stalls and events, raffles, a bouncy castle, and much more! Come along and join in the fun – all welcome!

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.

PARISH NEWS

New Altar Servers? – we are building an excellent team of youngsters as Altar Servers at St Columba’s, and we are always very happy to welcome more new recruits! Any child who has received First Holy Communion is encouraged to consider helping the Parish Liturgy by serving at Mass. Full training will be given!

Highland Deanery Day for Altar Servers: Saturday 19 August, from 10.30am – 4.00pm. We have organised a special day for all Altar Servers on 19 August. **This is a ‘three-line whip’, ‘MUST ATTEND event’ for our present**

servers! The Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Mr George Brand, is coming from Aberdeen to instruct us all on the finer points of Serving, and there will be fun activities, lots of food, and friendship for our young people!

Singing Group: would you like to be involved in an informal singing group in our parish? The purpose of the group would be to meet every so often with the musicians, to look at new hymns and help with singing at the Sunday Mass. We are hoping to begin this group in September. If this sounds ideal to you (no pun intended!), please speak to Fr Domenico, or to the musicians.

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Each year thousands of adults choose to become Catholics. They come from different backgrounds, and for different reasons: some are already Christians from other traditions; some are from another faith, or no faith at all; some are non-Catholics who have been coming regularly to Mass for years with their Catholic spouses or relatives. If you would like to know more about the Catholic faith, please speak to Fr Domenico.

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 1st 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!! – Good luck to all who have a number! Would you like to join in? There are a few numbers left – only £2 a month. All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO: there is a break over the months of July and August. **NEXT EYES DOWN IN SEPTEMBER!** However, we always appreciate non-perishable items to give as prizes; they are much needed (chocolates, wine, toiletries, stationery, or any item you would like to win)! Can you help? Your support is essential! Very many thanks to all who contribute to make our fundraiser so successful!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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