



St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW

Tel: (01463) 794619 / (01463) 233519

E-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com

Website: www.stcolumbasculloden.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden

Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

30TH OCTOBER 2016
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR, C

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2

Psalm: Ps 144: 1-2, 8-11, 13-14

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:11 – 2:2

Gospel: Luke 19: 1-10

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 30 October	THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 1 November	SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 2 November	Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 3 November	Thursday in the Thirty-First Week of the Year	Mass	7.30pm
Sunday 6 November	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Deacon Andrew Niski)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Thirty-First Sunday of the Year: “Climb the tree of desire for mercy and forgiveness”

The page of Luke's Gospel chosen for this Sunday shows us Jesus who, on his way to Jerusalem, enters the city of Jericho. This is the final stage of a journey that sums up the meaning of the whole of Jesus' life, which was dedicated to searching and saving the lost sheep of the house of Israel. But the more the journey comes to a close, the more hostility envelops Jesus.

Yet one of the most joyful events recounted by St Luke happens in Jericho: the conversion of Zacchaeus. This man is a lost sheep, he is despised and “excommunicated” because he is a tax collector, indeed he is the head of the tax collectors of the city, a friend of the hated Roman occupants; he is a thief and an exploiter.

Being short in stature and prevented from approaching Jesus, most likely because of his bad reputation, Zacchaeus climbs a tree to be able to see the Teacher who is passing by. This exterior action, which is a bit ridiculous, expresses the interior act of a man seeking to bring himself above the crowd in order to be near Jesus. Zacchaeus himself does not realize the deep meaning of his action; he doesn't understand why he does it, but he does. Nor does he dare to hope that the distance which separates him from the Lord may be overcome; he resigns himself to seeing him only as he passes by. But when Jesus comes close to the tree he calls him by name: “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today” (Lk 19:5). The man of small stature, rejected by everyone and far from Jesus, is lost in anonymity; but Jesus calls him. And the name “Zacchaeus” in the language of the time has a beautiful meaning, full of allusion. “Zacchaeus” in fact, means “God remembers”.

So Jesus goes to Zacchaeus' house, drawing criticism from all the people of Jericho (even in those days there was a lot of gossip!), who said: How can this be? With all the good people in the city, how can he go stay with a tax collector? Yes, because he was lost. Jesus said: “Today salvation has come to this house, since he is also a son of Abraham”

(Lk 19:9). From that day forward in Zacchaeus' house joy entered, peace entered, salvation entered and Jesus entered.

There is no profession or social condition, no sin or crime of any kind that can erase from the memory and the heart of God even one of his children. “God remembers”, always, he never forgets those who he created. He is the Father, who watchfully and lovingly waits to see the desire to return home be reborn in the hearts of his children. And when he sees this desire, even simply hinted at and so often almost unconsciously, immediately he is there, and by his forgiveness he lightens the path of conversion and return. Let us look at Zacchaeus today in the tree: his is a ridiculous act but it is an act of salvation. And I say to you: if your conscience is weighed down, if you are ashamed of many things that you have done, stop for a moment, do not be afraid. Think about the fact that someone is waiting for you because he has never ceased to remember you; and this someone is your Father, it is God who is waiting for you! Climb up, as Zacchaeus did, climb the tree of desire for forgiveness. I assure you that you will not be disappointed. Jesus is merciful and never grows tired of forgiving! Remember that this is the way Jesus is.

Brothers and sisters, let Jesus also call us by name! In the depths of our hearts, let us listen to his voice which says: “Today I must stop at your house”; that is, in your heart, in your life. And let us welcome him with joy. He can change us, he can transform our stony hearts into hearts of flesh, he can free us from selfishness and make our lives a gift of love. Jesus can do this; let Jesus turn his gaze to you! (Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 3 November 2013)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

“In asking to come to your house, Jesus calls you, as he did Zacchaeus, by name. All of us, Jesus calls by name. Your name is precious to him.”

PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU!.. For your support at our coffee morning for Mary's Meals! It was a very successful charity event, and was greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way, large or small. The motto of St Joseph's Primary School comes to mind: "Together we believe, together we achieve"! It would be good to organise more of these events in the parish; if you are interested in helping with future events, or have any ideas for other fundraising initiatives, please see Fr Domenico.

Have you seen our new Facebook page?! Feel free to contribute news items (local, national, and international), share information on what is happening in the Church and the world, make comments and suggestions, etc. You can find the site here: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden

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.

FIRS: Thursday 10 November 2016, 2.00pm onwards. The speaker for November's meeting will be **Fr Domenico**, who will talk about "The Churches of Rome" – mixing art and history with autobiography! Come along and find out a little more about your Parish Priest!

Remembrance Sunday, 13 November - this is a day for the nation to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. We will have our own short Service of Remembrance in front of our War Memorial. If you have served – or are presently serving – in HM Armed Forces, or in any form of public service, or if you are a member of the Scouts, Guides, or other organisation, please do consider attending the event in your uniform.

Morning of Renewal for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – Saturday 19 November, 10.00am – 1.00pm. This is an opportunity for ALL Readers and Extraordinary Ministers – **from St Columba's and further afield** – to come together for a morning of reflection and renewal. There will be several short presentations, time for prayer, and Question-and-Answer Sessions. Please spread the word.

Preparation for First Holy Communion, 2016-2017: if your child is of approx. P3 age at Primary School, and you would like to discuss the possibility of him/her being prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion in Summer 2017, please see Fr Domenico.

Drama Group for Children (approx. 5-10 years old): This initiative has been suggested to me by one of our parishioners. If you would like to help with a simple drama group for our younger children, with the aim of putting together a small production at Christmas and Easter-time, please speak to Fr Domenico.

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – We are organising a Grand Christmas Raffle, with proceeds going to our Building Fund. More details in due course!

ST COLUMBA'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Wednesday 14 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, here at St Columba's, with festive food and drink provided (mulled wine, mince pies, and other goodies). We have invited a few school choirs to join us, plus several other special guests!! Donations at the door will be gratefully accepted – all proceeds go towards our Building Fund. Why not invite some friends and come along? Spread a little festive cheer!

Gardeners required: if you'd like to help maintain the beautiful appearance of the church grounds, please speak to Don – we need your help!

Church cleaning – Monday 31st October at 4.30pm: Gi Gi and Shona. New volunteers are always welcomed – please consider offering some of your spare time to help clean our beautiful church!

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

PRIZE BINGO – The next Fundraiser Bingo will be on **FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER!!** 'Eyes down' at 7.00pm. Family fun and funds for the church! The December Bingo session will hopefully be a Christmas night with crackers and mince pies; more details later! Items to give out as prizes are always needed (ten single-line prizes; ten 'full house' prizes; plus Raffle prizes). Many thanks to all who donated such marvellous gifts.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray + Rhona MacGregor + Cath and Roddy Mackenzie +

Anniversaries: + Joan Macintyre + Renzo Serafini + Tom O'Connor + John Horne +

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.

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

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: 7 November**): contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Visit www.ksc.org.uk.

Inverness Catenian Circle meet on the Second Monday of every month, at 7.30pm (**next meeting: 14 November**). The meeting is followed by dinner at the Craigmonie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045).