



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

3RD JULY 2016

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, C

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 66: 10-14

Psalm: Ps 65: 1-7, 16, 20

2nd Reading: Galatians 6: 14-18

Gospel: Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 3 July	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Peter's Pence)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 5 July	Tuesday in the Fourteenth Week of the Year	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 6 July	Wednesday in the Fourteenth Week of the Year	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 7 July	Thursday in the Fourteenth Week of the Year	Mass	7.30pm
Sunday 10 July	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Sea Sunday)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Brexit: where to from here? – The road ahead must be paved with generosity if it is to lead to the common good

There is no doubt that the result of the recent EU referendum is a shock. By any reckoning, 'Leave' was the more drastic of the alternatives on offer, and the headlines and coverage so far are reflecting the gravity of the decision – words such as 'stunned' and 'historic' abound. David Cameron's announcement of his intention to resign as Prime Minister is a momentous decision – he has said that his intention is to fulfil the unenviable task of 'steady[ing] the ship' in the short term, but his announcement will certainly not add any stability to a government that has been split by this referendum. However, the objective of this vote was not to establish the trajectory of David Cameron's career, and so our attention should not be diverted to him. The effects of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union – for good or for ill – will be felt by every British citizen, every citizen of every EU member state, and beyond. The challenges ahead are considerable and the decisions numerous – issues of finance, security, the environment, freedom of movement, rights, trade and so forth, will no doubt dominate the political landscape for the foreseeable future. Underlying all of this, however, is a reality to which scant attention was given before the referendum, which is all the more reason for it to be foremost in our thoughts in the aftermath. **Co-operation and fellowship should not be limited to those with whom we are in political union or with whom we share views; and when we make decisions or take actions, it should not be for the benefit only of those who are tied to us by relationship or proximity. In Catholic Social Teaching, we talk about these ideas as the principle of solidarity, which calls each one of us to love each one of our neighbours; and as working for the common good, which has no room for exclusion, deprivation or derision of anyone.**

The long term challenge for decision-makers in the UK and the EU is to be guided by this reality, to shape a society that is not concerned only with its own status but

with the welfare of all of those within and outside its borders. But the immediate challenge for us all, rooted in solidarity and the desire for the common good, is to be generous. Social media are awash today with disillusion and triumphalism, but little in between... **If we are to hope that a post-Referendum Britain, Europe and world will be in any way 'better', we must trust that a better society was the motivation of all those who campaigned and voted. St Paul called the divided Christians of Corinth to be ministers of reconciliation; we must be, too, and this is predicated on a generosity of spirit.**

Foremost among the initial reactions are the possibility of referenda in other EU member states and that of another referendum on Scottish independence; speculation about the future of various political careers; and the disparity between voting patterns in different parts of the UK – all areas of inquiry that focus on division rather than potential unity. If there is one beacon to which I am drawn in the midst of all the data and commentary, it is this: **areas of low-skilled work and unemployment largely voted 'Leave', an indication (if one was needed) that the political status quo on these isles has thus far not served those residents most affected by poverty. The government now, more than ever, has a responsibility to listen to the voices of dissatisfaction and respond to their concerns, to think about how it can prioritise society's most vulnerable.** 'Blame Brussels' will no longer be an acceptable excuse from Westminster, if it ever was. But Brussels still has its job to do, as does Westminster. If the common good, the desire for a society in which nobody is allowed to slip through the net, can be the foundation of whatever structures are built between the two now, there is a stronger chance that those structures will be bridges, not walls.

(Frances Murphy, Editor of the Jesuit website *Thinking Faith* – adapted. You can read the full text of the editorial at: <https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/brexit-where-here>).

GENERAL NEWS

TODAY: 300th ANNIVERSARY SCALAN MASS! – Today's Mass begins at 4.00pm, and marks the 300th Anniversary of the founding of the Seminary in 1716. Scalan can be reached by leaving Tomintoul on the A939 (B9008 Dufftown). Just beyond Auchnarrow, about five miles later, Scalan is signposted on the right on an unclassified but good road, with passing places. **For those on satellite systems, AB37 9JS is a useful postcode.** Archbishop Leo Cushley is the Principal Celebrant, and he will be joined by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia and Archbishop Mario Conti.

Congratulations to Deacon Andrzej!! – one of our Highland Seminarians, Andrzej Niski, was ordained to the Diaconate yesterday, Saturday 2 July, by Bishop Hugh at St John's Seminary, Wonerish (Surrey). This marks the end of Andrzej's seminary training. He will return to the Diocese to serve as a Deacon, before being ordained to the Priesthood in due course. Please keep him in your prayers.

"Youth Rally for Jesus" – Stratherrick, 20 August 2016: Jesus our Liberator, our Healer, our Friend, our Companion. A Day of Discovery, Adventure, and Devotion, at Stratherrick (IV2 6UL), from 10:00am to 5.00pm. **FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE.** Phone 01463 233519, or e-mail: stmarysinverness@btinternet.com.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage, 22-29 October 2016 – Departing from Aberdeen. TOTAL COST: £650.00 (includes flights and half-board accommodation). Deposit of £100 required. Single room supplement: £130. For further details, contact Irma Allan, on (01224) 869889, or 07714 718708.

PARISH NEWS

Today's Second Collection: "Peter's Pence" – Peter's Pence is the name given to the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church and for the relief of those most in need. In the first year of his Pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI stressed the proper meaning of this offering: "'Peter's Pence' is the most characteristic expression of the participation of all the faithful in the Bishop of Rome's charitable initiatives in favour of the universal Church. The gesture has not only a practical value, but also a strong symbolic one, as a sign of communion with the Pope and attention to the needs of one's brothers and sisters".

Congratulations to Linda and Johnny! – many congratulations to this 'young couple' on their 50th Wedding Anniversary! – "Marriage is a precious sign, for when a man and a woman celebrate the sacrament of marriage, God is, as it were, 'mirrored' in them; he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love. Marriage is the icon of God's love for us." (*Amoris Laetitia*, 121)

Welcome to our visiting Scout Troop from Milford, Massachusetts! – You are very welcome, as are all of our visitors to St Columba's! Please do join us for tea/coffee and a chat after Mass!

Thank you – to everyone who made our Confirmation and First Holy Communion celebrations such joyful and spiritually-uplifting occasions. These were wonderfully affirming events for the Parish; **we had 170 people attending the Confirmation Mass, and an incredible 212 people at our First Holy Communion Mass!!** There is so much potential for us here at St Columba's!! Why not spread the word, and invite others to join us?! Photographs of both occasions are available on our website!

Amoris Laetitia Reading Group: come along to our informal, relaxed reading group, where we'll explore and share some of the ideas in Pope Francis' new teaching document, *Amoris Laetitia* (the Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family). The gatherings will be **on Wednesdays, 7.00pm-8.30pm**, beginning **Wednesday 6 July**. Full details on our parish website. If you are interested in taking part in this reading group, contact Fr Domenico at: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com.

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST: Parish Day Trip to Orkney!

A Grand Day Out! **The coach departs from Inverness Bus Station at 7.15am, and returns at 9.00pm.** We will drive up to Caithness, board the 10.30am John O'Groats ferry, and cross to the islands. There then follows a **6-hour tour of Orkney**. Highlights include: **Scapa Flow; Churchill Barriers; Italian Chapel (photo stop); Skara Brae stone-age village; Standing Stones of Stenness; Ring of Brodgar; Kirkwall.**

Prices – Adults: £ 72.00; Accompanied Children under 16: £ 36.00; Under 5s go free. All transport included.

Extra: entrance fee to Skara Brae – Historic Scotland site (Adult £7.10, Concession £5.70, Child £4.30).

CLOSING DATE: TODAY, 3 JULY. There are a limited number of places. Please sign up on the sheet in the entrance foyer, and/or e-mail Fr Domenico at: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com.

Church cleaning – Tuesday 4.30pm: Margaret and Don. Additional help is always appreciated!

"90 Club" Winners! – no.5: Helen; no.1: Francis; no.90: Anne-Marie. Well done to you all! **The next draw is Sunday 31st JULY.** There are a few still available if you would like to join; ask Don for information.

PRIZE BINGO: Our Fundraiser Bingo will return after the Summer break, in September, on the first Friday of the month. Non-perishable items can still be handed in, and they will be safely stored until September. Thank you for your generosity and support.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

Anniversaries: + Irene O'Connor + Tom O'Connor + Margaret O'Connor +