



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2016**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR C**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 3 January	Epiphany of the Lord, Year C (Second Collection: Justice and Peace)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Tuesday 5 January	Tuesday after the Epiphany	Mass	19.30
Wednesday 6 January	Wednesday after the Epiphany	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 7 January	Thursday after the Epiphany	Mass	19.30
Friday 8 January	Optional Memorial of St Nathalan (Diocese of Aberdeen)	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Sunday 10 January	The Baptism of the Lord, Year C	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available 30 minutes before each Mass.**

## New Year Resolutions with Pope Francis

Have you made any New Year's resolutions for 2016? If not, don't worry – there's still time! If you're stuck for ideas, Pope Francis has some good suggestions. During a special audience with the employees of the Vatican on 21 December, the Holy Father offered the following advice:

1. "Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are."
2. "Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love."
3. "Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy."
4. "Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."
5. "Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others."
6. "Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."
7. "Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people."

8. "Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation."

9. "Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this."

10. "Making sure your Christmas is about Jesus and not about shopping."

It's a good list: it's clearly rooted in Catholic teaching, but presented in a way that non-Catholics can embrace. All of us can find on this list at least one or two resolutions that speak to areas in which we really need to grow. What are *your* resolutions for 2016?



## GENERAL NEWS

### Second Collection Today: Justice and Peace

There is a mandatory Second Collection today, for the work of Justice and Peace; there is also the following letter from Bishop William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway, and President of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland:

"The Church begins each New Year with a day of prayer for peace. Yet each New Year peace seems as elusive and as far off as ever. The names of the war zones may change, but conflicts remain, and war and terrorism never seem to go away. All too often we see humanity try to resolve conflict with the bullet and the bomb. All too often we see property destroyed, communities shattered and innocent human life snuffed out. Pope Paul VI went to the United Nations in 1965 and pleaded: No more War. Pope Francis, marking 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2015, pleaded yet again: No more war. We all feel that plea in our heart, and every time we see death and destruction we feel the senselessness of human conflict and our desire for peace increases, along with our frustration at being unable to bring peace to a troubled world.

Women and men from all nations, cultures, backgrounds, and religions have in their hearts a deep longing for peace. It is the frailty of our fractured human nature that means we are unable to achieve it. The conflict in our families and communities at home - the harsh word, the selfish act, the arrogant condemnation - is multiplied on the national and international scale. The failings and weaknesses of our individual human relationships are mirrored in the failings between communities and states. We can call that human failure, sin, and it is our sinfulness that stops us achieving peace in our homes, never mind peace in our world.

We may be focussed now on religious fundamentalism as the cause of conflict, but history is littered with "isms": nationalism, imperialism, communism, capitalism, racism - which at one time or another have been the spark and the drive and the justification for violence. What is unchanging is the human condition. The birth of Jesus into our world 2000 years ago is a reminder to us that we cannot save ourselves. Our flawed human nature means that any peace we achieve is often a flawed peace carrying in itself the seeds of its own destruction. That is why we have a day of prayer for peace, for we need God to change us.

This year we pray for peace during the Year of Mercy. We need God's mercy to touch our hearts and the hearts of our fellow human beings. We need God's mercy to heal the rifts and divisions that fracture our relationships. We need God's mercy to soothe away the hurts and pains that keep bitterness alive in our hearts. We need God's mercy to teach us to be merciful ourselves. For only human beings who are merciful to each other can ever live in peace and harmony and in a world free of violence and war. Keeping in mind the theme of this Holy Year, may our prayer for peace enable us to become *Merciful like the Father*."

## PARISH NEWS

**Classes for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion** – In January 2016, we will be starting classes for children in P3 and above. Can parents please check that their child has been registered or collect a form from the sacristy. We will be holding a brief meeting for families on

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm** to introduce the programme and to decide on class day/time.

**Year of Mercy: Evening of Reflection at St Columba's:** the third of our Evenings will take place on **Wednesday 20 January, beginning at 7.00pm**. The format is as follows: a short talk, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, some quiet time, and concluding with Benediction. This month's Reflection is entitled '**Conversion: Beginning our Journey of Mercy**'. Do come and join us!

**'Faith in Film' Evening:** this month's film is entitled **Shadowlands** (1993), starring Anthony Hopkins and Deborah Winger. It will be screened on **Wednesday 27 January, from 7.00pm onwards**. This Oscar-nominated and BAFTA-Award winning film is an emotionally-moving drama based on the real-life romance between the writer and academic C. S. Lewis and the American poet Joy Gresham. It is an absorbing story of both personal and spiritual transformation. Certificate 12 (126 minutes).

### Parish Pilgrimage to Iona, 10-14 October 2016

Pope Francis has encouraged all Catholics to make a pilgrimage of faith during this Year of Mercy. With this in mind, I have booked half-board accommodation in the Catholic House of Prayer on the island of Iona for a Parish pilgrimage, arriving on Monday 10 October, and departing on Friday 14 October. There is a little chapel where we can celebrate daily Mass. The House can accommodate EIGHT pilgrims, in the following room configurations:

2 Single Rooms; 2 Twin Rooms; 1 Double Room

The total price per person will be approx £300. A deposit of £40 per person is required by mid-January. Transport will be in shared cars. Please see me if you are interested.

**Old Christmas cards?** Please save your Christmas cards (religious ones only, please) for Sr Anne Marie, who recycles them. They may be handed in to the Sacristy. Sr Anne Marie is very grateful for your support.

**Church cleaning:** Tuesday 5 January – Mary and Marie. If anyone would like to **join the cleaning team**, and help to keep the church lovely and clean, please speak to Don. Only one shift a month!

**"90 Club":** Winners for December – No. 17: Kevin; No. 88: Charlotte; No. 35: Michael. Congratulations to you all. The next draw will take place on Sunday 31 January. You could be a winner if you get one of the few numbers left; please ask Don.

**Prize Bingo:** our next 'eyes down' – subject to the weather, will be on Friday 29 January.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

**R.I.P.:** + Michelle Campbell +

**Anniversaries:** Patricia O'Riordan + Allan Jamieson + Anne Laverty + Fr Gerald Fitzgibbon + Fr Ronnie Walls + Christopher Kelman + Joseph and Sarah Wheelan +