



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

5TH JUNE 2016
TENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, C

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: 1 Kings 17: 17-24
 Psalm: Ps 29: 2. 4-6. 11-13
 2nd Reading: Galatians 1: 11-19
 Gospel: Luke 7: 11-17

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 5 June	TENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, C (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 7 June	Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 8 June	Memorial of St Justin, Martyr	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 9 June	*** FEAST OF ST COLUMBA *** PATRONAL FEAST AND PARISH FIRST ANNIVERSARY	MASS AND CELEBRATION MEAL	7.30pm
Sunday 12 June	ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, C (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Tenth Sunday of the Year – Reflection by Pope Francis on the Resurrection of the Widow of Nain's Son

Commenting on the passage from the Gospel of Luke which recounts the resurrection of the widow of Nain's son (7:11-17), the Pope described Jesus, who sees the woman in front of the dead body of her only son, and "he took compassion on her". Pope Francis described this feeling of Christ as "the capacity to suffer with us, to be close to our sufferings and to make them his own". Besides, Jesus understood "what it meant to be a widow at that time", when mothers were left alone to raise their children they had to rely on the help and charity of others.

The Bishop of Rome's thoughts turned to other widows mentioned in the Bible. To them the Lord shows special "care, a special love", to the point that they have become "an icon of the Church, because", he explained, "the Church is in a certain sense a widow too: her husband has gone away and she walks through history hoping to find him again, to meet with him. Then once and for all she will be his bride". But, the Pope warned, "in the meantime the Church is alone", and the Lord is not visible to her: this is why the Church "has a certain dimension of widowhood".

The first result of this widowhood is that the Church becomes "brave", like a mother "who protects her children", just as the widow in the Gospel "who went to the corrupt judge to defend her children and eventually won". Because, the Pope stressed: "our Mother Church has that courage, the courage of a woman who knows that her children are hers, and that she must defend them and bring them to meet her husband".

Courage gives place to the second element: strength, as seen in other widows described in Scripture: among them Naomi, the great-grandmother of David, "who was not afraid to be alone", and the Maccabean widow with seven sons "who, in staying faithful to God, and in order not to deny the law of God, was martyred by the tyrant". What struck Pope Francis about this woman was the fact the Bible stressed that "she spoke in dialect, her native language" just as "our Mother Church does", who

speaks to us in the language of true orthodoxy, which we all understand, the language of the Catechism, that powerful language, that strengthens us and gives us the strength to carry on the battle against evil".

Summarizing his own reflections the Pontiff then recalled the Church's dimension of widowhood, as she journeys through history expecting to meet, to find her bridegroom". For the rest he pointed out that "our Mother Church is this way: a faithful Church knows how to cry. She weeps for her children and prays". Indeed "when the Church does not weep, something is wrong" whereas the Church functions when the Church "goes forward and makes her children mature, gives them the strength, accompanies them to the last leave-taking, to entrust them to her spouse, whom she too will meet at the end". And since the Pope sees "Our Mother Church in this widow who cries", we must wonder what the Lord says to this mother to comfort her. The answer can be found in the Gospel of Luke when Jesus says: "Do not weep!". They are words that seem to say: do not cry, because "I am with you, I am accompanying you, I await you there, in the nuptials, the ultimate nuptials, those of the Lamb"; stop crying "this son of yours that was dead now lives". And to the latter, the third figure presented by the Gospel, the Lord turns, saying: "young man, I say to you, arise". According to the Pontiff these are the very words which the Lord speaks to men and women in the sacrament of reconciliation, "when we are dead because of sin, and we go to ask for his forgiveness".

Luke ends his narrative with the description of the young man who had died, was raised and sits up and begins to speak; and of Jesus who restores him to his mother just as he does with us. The Pope noted, "when he forgives us, he restores life in us", for "our reconciliation does not end with the dialogue" with the priest who gives us forgiveness, but it is completed "when he brings us back to our mother". (Morning Meditation, 17 September 2013)

GENERAL NEWS

Duncan Forbes School Gala Day: Friday 10 June, 6.00pm until 8.30pm. All the usual fun activities. Come along and support the school!

Saturday Night Dance Party, 11 June: the Polish Fundraising Group are holding a Saturday Night Dance Party on **11 June, from 7.00pm to 1.00am (!)** in St Mary's Church Hall, Huntly Street, with a Lottery at 10.00pm. Entertainment will be provided by 'The Brothers Band', and by the all-female singing group 'The Voices'. Tickets, priced at £10 each, are available from PJ in St Mary's parish office; call him on 01463 233519, or e-mail: stmarysinverness@btinternet.com.

Priestly Ordination of Deacon Peter Macdonald: Monday 13 June, in St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen, at 6.30pm. If you are planning to attend this diocesan event, you should be seated by 6.00pm at the latest.

Inverness Parishes Picnic – Sunday 19 June, 3.00pm-6.00pm at Bellfield Park. A picnic is being organised for all the members of the Inverness Parishes. A chance to get to know other parishioners and other cultures! Come along for a wonderful afternoon – an ideal end to the day, after our Confirmation Day! There will be games, a bouncy castle, face-painting, bottle stall, BBQ, lucky dip, etc. Live music will be provided by the Brothers Band and DJ Coli. Donations gratefully accepted.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Pluscarden Abbey, 26 June 2016:
12 noon onwards: Refreshments available in the marquee.
1.00pm–3.00pm: Adoration (Lady Chapel).
1.00pm–3.00pm: Confessions (St. Benedict's Retreat).
3.30pm: Pilgrimage Mass & Procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady.

Diaconal Ordination of Andrzej Niski, 2 July: Bishop Hugh will ordain one of our Highland seminarians – Andrew Niski – to the Diaconate on Saturday 2 July, at St John's Seminary, Womersley (Guildford).

Please continue to pray for vocations to the Priesthood in our Diocese, and do remember our seminarians: Deacon Peter Macdonald, Andrzej Niski, Emmet O'Dowd, Rafal Sweda, Christopher Doig, Dominic Nwaigwe, Malachy Eze.

PARISH NEWS

FEAST OF ST COLUMBA, THURSDAY 9 JUNE: there is a lot to celebrate this year – the Feast-Day of our Parish Patron Saint, the first anniversary of your Parish Priest here at St Columba's (...and the fifth anniversary of his Priesthood!). After the Mass, we will have a Summer Picnic 'al fresco' on the patio (weather permitting!). **We are looking for volunteers to help with the moving of tables, setting out the food, etc.,** and we ask that you **bring along something to share and eat with others** in a fraternal Parish festive meal. **PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET in the entrance foyer.**

CALLING ALL TEENAGERS!! 'Power of Grace', Saturday 11 June: A day retreat for **teens aged 12-16**, organised by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia. The event will be held at **Greyfriars' Convent, Elgin, from 11.00am**

to 6.00pm. Come and experience the power of your Confirmation during this day of fun, fellowship, and prayer. **The event is free, but registration is required. The necessary forms are available on the parish website.** Fr Domenico will be participating in the day's activities; please speak to him, or e-mail the Sisters at: dominican.sisters@dioceseofaberdeen.org. Car-sharing can be arranged. **Parents: please do encourage your youngsters to come along to this fun-filled day!**

Parish Confirmations, Sunday 19 June: just a reminder of our forthcoming Confirmation Mass with Bishop Hugh in two week's time. Please do make an effort to come along and support Erin, Morven, Matt, Calum, and Louis on their important day, and keep them in your prayers.

Confirmation classes:
Thursdays, 6.30pm-7.15pm.
Meeting on: 16 June.

Reconciliation and Holy Communion classes:
Thursdays, 5.30pm-6.00pm.
Meetings on: 9, 16, 23 June.

CAN YOU HELP OUR PARISH?

We are looking for volunteers to help the parish in the following areas:

- Reading at Mass
- Welcome and hospitality
- Bingo Fundraiser
- Helping with Teas and Coffees after Mass
- Flowers
- Cleaning the church
- Gardening

For further details, please speak to Fr Domenico.

Church cleaning – Tuesday 7 June at 4.30pm: Margaret and Don. Additional help is always appreciated!

"90 Club" Winners for May – First Prize: no. 65 (Johnny); Second Prize: no. 31 (Rosie); Third Prize: no. 63 (Malcolm). Next draw: Sunday 26 June. There are a few numbers still available if you would like to join; ask Don for information.

PRIZE BINGO: 'eyes down' on Friday 24 June, at 7.00pm. The Prize supply box is rather low; items to give as prizes are always required. Thank to everyone for the wonderful items we receive. Your generosity is appreciated. NB. Friday 24 June will be our last Prize Bingo night before the Summer break; we return again in September, on the first Friday of the month, and thereafter until December.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

Anniversaries: + Anne MacLean +