



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

5 NOVEMBER 2017:

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Malachi 1:14 – 2:2,8-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 130 (131)

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 5 November	THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 7 November	Tuesday of Week 31 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 8 November	Memorial of Blessed John Duns Scotus	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 9 November	Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 12 November	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR ✠ REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ✠ Second Collection: Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Best Seats

The Gospel concerns, above all, people in high offices and leading positions, especially in the Church, but also in politics and in other official positions. It is a Gospel .. that frightens and encourages me at the same time. It shows the dangers that lurk in the offices of the Church, and it shows simple ways to avoid these dangers. He who preaches a lot must be on guard that there is not too great a difference between word and deed, between sermon and life. He who teaches a lot must take great care lest he demand from others what he is neither ready nor able to live up to himself.

Anyone who is in a high-profile, high-visibility position is in danger of gradually acquiring an ever-greater taste for being in the spotlight in every place, at every festival, at every religious celebration, and – one must add nowadays – in the media in all its forms. Jesus does not criticise the fact that there are people who are appointed to preach and to teach or that there are exalted offices and that these are associated with certain positions of honour. What he reproaches the scribes and Pharisees with is their pursuit of recognition, their desire to be seen, their pushing themselves to the fore, and their craving from honour and making a good impression on others.

In a very poor plantation village in Sri Lanka, I was received with unimaginable honours. For days the first visit of a cardinal had been prepared: garlands, the

long road neatly and painstakingly covered with fresh sand, flowers, music, everything that these poor people were able to muster. When we finally reached the church – a wretched building – the Jesuit Father, who had been living there, impoverished, for forty years among his parish children, whispered in my ear: “Do not believe that these people did all that on account of Christoph Schönborn. They do it for Christ.”

Do not believe you are elevated above others because of your office: “You are all brothers!” The common ground we share in God counts for more than the distinctions in offices and honours: “You have one Father, who is in heaven.” Great and small, famous and unknown: we are all children of the one Father.

He who does not forget this will remain simple and modest even in the highest positions. He will understand, above all, that there is only One who is truly great, before whom we are all small, before whom all our differences, which we consider so important, are trivial. He who keeps this in his heart will not exploit a high office for himself but will view it as a position of service. The only ones who are truly great are those who, even “way up”, keep serving and are thus close to their fellow-man. I know our Pope to be such a person... Anyone who is a servant to such an extent is truly a father to many.

[Cardinal Christoph Schönborn]

GENERAL NEWS

Tuesday 21 November: Gabriel Society – “The Media and the Catholic Press”. To be held in the Marian Room, at 32 Huntly Street, beginning at 7.00pm. All welcome!

Saturday 25 November: St Andrew's Night Dance – Live music & dance featuring Scottish & Polish tunes from **The Brothers Band** and **DJ Coli** on **Saturday 25 November from 8.00pm until 2.00am**, in the St. Mary's Church Hall. Food will be available, but please feel free to take along something to eat and drink (no bar). Ticket prices £15. Tickets from Parish Office ask for PJ - 01463 233519. Reserve your tickets for this most popular St. Andrew's event.

PARISH NEWS

Building Work at St Columba's: construction work is due to begin **THIS week**. Please observe the no-go areas, and please make sure that children do not hurt themselves. See the Newsletter for full details.

Remembrance Sunday: Next week, 12 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, please do consider attending the event in your uniform. Our Second Collection will be for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

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.

St Columba's Mothers and Toddlers Group: every Monday, from 9.30am-11.30am! Thank you for your donations of toys: any other items, such as a slide, small trikes, baby buggies / prams, baby seats and mats, or musical instruments, would be gratefully received. Children's tables and chairs are ordered, and on their way to us. Thank you also for your practical and prayerful support of this group – it gives younger parents a chance to meet and speak with one another, and for our children to play and make friends in a safe, supportive environment. If you would like to help in any way with this group, please speak to Fr Domenico or to Clare Greig after Sunday Mass, or for more details, please email: clareoke@yahoo.com.

Lighting up St Columba's: #RedWednesday – This autumn, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is asking us to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians throughout the world, and with all who suffer for their peacefully-held beliefs. ACN will be holding a **week of events from 19 – 26 November, with #RedWednesday as the highlight on Wednesday 22 November**. Red is the Christian colour of martyrdom. Christians are the most persecuted faith group in today's world, and #RedWednesday will honour all Christians who suffer and die for their faithfulness to Christ's message of peace and love, and will shine a light on Christian persecution, but will also highlight the injustices perpetrated against other faith groups. To mark our own solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters,

St Columba's will be floodlit red during the month of November. For details, please go online to this website: <https://acnuk.org/campaign/redwednesday/>

ST COLUMBA'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Wednesday 13 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, with festive food and drink provided (non-alcoholic mulled wine, mince pies, and other goodies). We have invited special guests to join us!! Donations at the door will be gratefully accepted – suggested offerings are: £5 for adults; kids go free! All proceeds go towards our Building Fund. Why not invite some friends and come along? Spread a little festive cheer!

“CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS” returns to St Columba's on **Wednesday 8 November at 7.00pm**, as we look at the monumental figure of **ST THOMAS AQUINAS (‘The Theologian’)**: The relationship of faith and reason is under intense scrutiny in an age beholden to the competing claims of fundamentalism and secularism. So-called “new atheists” insist that the claims of religion amount to mere superstition, a retrograde holdover from a time long ago. Others insist that the life of faith is a retreat into emotions and subjectivism. St. Thomas Aquinas anticipated these objections and trends and demonstrated that to believe is to think and that the life of the mind is integral to life in Christ.

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 6 November – Mary and Karen.

“90 Club” Winners: October Draw – 1st Prize: No. 29 – Pat Grant; 2nd Prize: No. 54 – Mary Grady; 3rd Prize: No. 6 – Ann Gow. The next draw takes place on Sunday 26 November. There are still a few numbers left; only £2 monthly. Please ask Don for details.

Prize Bingo: our next fun-filled fundraiser evening will take place on Friday 1 December at 7.00pm. All welcome! Come and take part in a family evening. Refreshments provided during the interval! Items to give as prizes are always required items to give as prizes always needed (we are particularly short of chocolates, and of wines and spirits; we'd also appreciate smelly candles, toiletries, gift vouchers, tins of sweets/biscuits...). Your support is much appreciated!

Annual Christmas Hamper Draw: items are needed to fill our hamper; the draw will be made on Christmas Eve. Can you help?

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Amelia & John Drew + Rose Corbett + Murray Mackay + Peter Simpson + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson +

Anniversaries: + William Hay + Anna Campbell