



St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW
 Tel: (01463) 794619 (Sacristy) / (01463) 794993 (House)
 E-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com
 Website: www.stcolumbasculloden.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden
 Parish Priest: Fr. Domenico Zanrè
 Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Dr. Helen Macdonald



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

5 SEPTEMBER 2021:
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year B (I); Psalter: Week 3)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 35: 7-10
 Resp. Psalm: Ps. 145 (146): 7-5
 2nd Reading: James 2: 1-5
 Gospel: Mark 7: 31-37

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 5 September	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (p. 912 – Year B)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass Holy Mass	9.30 am 11.00 am
Monday 6 September	Monday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time	Morning Prayer & Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 7 September	Tuesday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Catrina Greig, RIP (Third Anniversary Today)	Evening Prayer & Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Wed 8 September	Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)	Morning Prayer & Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Thursday 9 September	Thursday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time	Morning Prayer & Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Friday 10 September	Friday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time	Morning Prayer & Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Saturday 11 September	Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Morning Prayer & Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 12 September	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (p. 916 – Year B)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass Holy Mass	9.30 am 11.00 am

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: “Be Opened”

This Sunday's Gospel passage (cf. Mk 7:31-37) refers to the episode of the miraculous healing by Jesus of a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. They brought to him a deaf and dumb man, beseeching Him to lay a hand upon him. Instead, He performed two different gestures upon him: first of all He took the man aside, far from the crowd. On this occasion, as on others, Jesus always acts with discretion. He does not want to impress people; He is not seeking popularity or success, but wishes only to do good to people. With this attitude, He teaches us that *good is to be done without clamour*, without ostentation, without “blowing one's trumpet”. It should be done quietly.

When they had drawn aside, Jesus put his fingers in the deaf man's ears and touched his tongue with saliva. This gesture refers to the Incarnation. The Son of God is a man inserted into human reality: he became man; therefore he can understand another man's distressing condition and intervene with a gesture which concerned his own humanity. At the same time, Jesus wanted to make it understood that the miracle occurred because of his union with the Father: for this reason, he looked up to heaven. He then sighed and said the decisive word: “*Ephphatha*”, which means “Be opened”. And immediately the man was healed: his ears were opened, his tongue was released. For him the healing was an “opening” to others and to the world.

This Gospel narrative emphasizes the need for a *twofold healing*. First and foremost the healing from illness and from physical suffering, in order to restore bodily health; even though this aim is not completely achievable on the earthly plane, despite the many efforts of science and medicine. But there is a second, perhaps more difficult healing, and it is

healing from fear. Healing from the fear that impels us to marginalize the sick, to marginalize the suffering, the disabled. And there are many ways to marginalize, even by showing pseudo compassion or by ignoring the problem; we remain deaf and dumb to the suffering of people marked by illness, anguish and difficulty. Too often the sick and the suffering become a problem, while they should be an occasion to show a society's concern and solidarity with regard to the weakest.

Jesus revealed to us the secret of a miracle that we too can imitate, becoming protagonists of "*Ephphatha*", of that phrase 'be opened' with which He gave speech and hearing back to the deaf and dumb man. It means opening ourselves to the needs of our brothers and sisters who are suffering and in need of help, by shunning selfishness and hardheartedness. It is precisely the heart, that is the deep core of the person, that Jesus came to "open", to free, in order to make us capable of fully living the relationship with God and with others. He became man so that man, rendered internally deaf and mute by sin, may hear the voice of God, the voice of Love that speaks to his heart, and thereby in turn, may learn to speak the language of love, transforming it into gestures of generosity and self-giving.

May Mary, the One who completely "opened" herself to the Lord's love, enable us to experience each day, in faith, the miracle of "*Ephphatha*", in order to live in communion with God and with our brothers and sisters.

(Pope Francis, Angelus Address, St. Peter's Square, Sunday 9 September 2018)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy (CTS New Sunday Missal): 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (p. 912)

p. 521: Introductory Rites

p. 912: Readings & Proper Prayers

p. 541: The Creed

p. 567: Preface II: The Mystery of Salvation

p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II

p. 631: Communion Rite

From TODAY, SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, there will be NO online booking.

Everyone is free to come along to St. Columba's, and to sit wherever they wish!

- Although social distancing is no longer required, we will continue with the current two-seat widths between different household groups – please respect the space of others.
- Face coverings are mandatory, and must still be worn. Sanitising protocols will still be maintained.
- Holy Communion will remain under one kind only, and must be received in the hand.
- We are now permitted to sing at Mass, and hymn books and Sunday Missals can be used. They are located in the seats in front of you.
- Fr. Domenico will continue to offer two Masses each Sunday: at 9.30am (which will also be live-streamed) and at 11.00am.

Pope Francis: Prayers and Fasting for the People of Afghanistan

The Holy Father has asked all Christians to show their solidarity with the people of Afghanistan at this time, by offering up prayers and fasting, to unite ourselves spiritually with them. "Let us continue to assist those in need", he says, "and pray that dialogue and solidarity may lead to peaceful and fraternal coexistence." Why not take Friday – traditionally a day of fasting and abstinence – and devote time to prayer for our brothers and sisters who are suffering?

Altar Servers: happily, we are now permitted to have Altar Servers on the Sanctuary once again. Any child who has received First Holy Communion is encouraged to consider helping the Parish Liturgy by serving at Mass. It doesn't matter if you are a new Server, or if you are one of our 'old hands'; if you would like to assist during our Sunday Masses, just let us know. Full training will be given! Please speak to Fr. Domenico to register your interest.

90 Club: AUGUST WINNERS! – First Prize: Pat Grant; Second Prize: Ewen Macdonald; Third Prize: Shona Volante. Well done to all our winners! The next draw will be Sunday 26th September. There are a few numbers available if anyone would like to join in. Please speak to Father Domenico for details.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Katie Mary Fraser, Norman Wood, Ian Macdonald, Kathleen Macpherson, Marian Ellis, Chris Hamilton, Rina Herbison, David Munro, Ellen Williams, Rose Corbett

RIP: Bryan Longmore, Calum MacIntyre

Anniversaries: Catrina Greig, Sally McEwen, Annie MacLeod, Brian O'Connell