



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

6 AUGUST 2017:

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 96 (97):1-2, 5-6, 9

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 1: 16-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 6 August	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 8 August	Memorial of St Dominic	NO MASS	-
Wednesday 9 August	Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)	NO MASS	-
Thursday 10 August	Feast of St Lawrence	NO MASS	-
Sunday 13 August	NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Pope Francis on The Transfiguration of the Lord

Today the Gospel presents the Transfiguration. Jesus “took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart” (Mt 17:1). The mountain in the Bible represents a place close to God and an intimate encounter with Him, a place of prayer where one stands in the presence of the Lord. There up on the mount, Jesus is revealed to the three disciples as transfigured, luminescent and most beautiful. And then Moses and Elijah appear and converse with Him. His face is so resplendent and his robes so white that Peter, awe-struck, wishes to stay there, as if to stop time. Suddenly from on high the voice of the Father resounds proclaiming Jesus to be his most beloved Son, saying “listen to him” (v. 5). This word is important! Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: “listen to Jesus, because he is my beloved Son”. This week let us keep this word in our minds and in our hearts: “listen to Jesus!”. And the Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. “Listen to Jesus!”. Don’t forget.

This invitation from the Father is very important. We, the disciples of Jesus, are called to be people who listen to his voice and take his words seriously. To listen to Jesus, we must be close to him, to follow him, like the crowd in the Gospel who chase him through the streets of Palestine. Jesus did not have a teaching post or a fixed pulpit, he was an itinerant teacher, who proposed his teachings, teachings given to him by the Father, along the streets, covering distances that were not always predictable or easy. Follow Jesus in order to listen to him. But also let us listen to Jesus in his written Word, in the Gospel. I pose a question to you: do you read a passage of the Gospel everyday? Yes, no...

yes, no... half of the time ... some yes, some no. It is important! Do you read the Gospel? It is so good; it is a good thing to have a small book of the Gospel, a little one, and to carry in our pocket or in our purse and read a little passage in whatever moment presents itself during the day. In any given moment of the day I take the Gospel from my pocket and I read something, a short passage. Jesus is there and he speaks to us in the Gospel! Ponder this. It’s not difficult, nor is it necessary to have all four books: one of the Gospels, a small one, with us. Let the Gospel be with us always, because it is the Word of Jesus in order for us to be able to listen to him.

From the event of the Transfiguration I would like to take two significant elements that can be summed up in two words: *ascent* and *descent*. We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer. But we cannot stay there! Encounter with God in prayer inspires us anew to “descend the mountain” and return to the plain where we meet many brothers weighed down by fatigue, sickness, injustice, ignorance, poverty both material and spiritual. To these brothers in difficulty, we are called to bear the fruit of that experience with God, by sharing the grace we have received. And this is curious. When we hear the Word of Jesus, when we listen to the Word of Jesus and carry it in our heart, this Word grows. Do you know how it grows? By giving it to the other! The Word of Christ grows in us when we proclaim it, when we give it to others! And this is what Christian life is. It is a mission for the whole Church, for all the baptized, for us all: listen to Jesus and offer him to others. Do not forget: this week listen to Jesus! [Angelus, 16 March 2014]

GENERAL NEWS

Catenian Rosary Fund: following on from their work of dispatching rosaries to missions in Africa and Australia, the Catenian Association is now concentrating on providing white plastic rosaries to prisons where there is an urgent need. If you have any spare rosaries, could you please send them to Michael Blackburn at the following address: 164 Green Park Road, Halifax, HX3 0SP. For further information, contact: michael@jjbr.co.uk. All rosaries received will be acknowledged.

Saturday 26 August: St Ninian's Summer Fair, 12 noon to 3.00pm – this fun-filled family day includes a barbeque lunch, with numerous stalls and events, raffles, a bouncy castle, and much more! Come along and join in the fun - all welcome!

Sunday 3 September: National Pilgrimage to Carfin, 2017 – In Honour of Our Lady of Fatima, and with the Consecration of Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. **Mass begins at 3.00pm.** Principal Celebrant: Archbishop Philip Tartaglia; Homilist: Bishop Brian McGee.

PARISH NEWS

New Altar Servers? – we are building an excellent team of youngsters as Altar Servers at St Columba's, and we are always very happy to welcome more new recruits! Any child who has received First Holy Communion is encouraged to consider helping the Parish Liturgy by serving at Mass. Full training will be given!

Highland Deanery Day for Altar Servers: Saturday 19 August, from 10.30am – 4.00pm. We have organised a special day for all Altar Servers on 19 August. **This is a 'three-line whip', 'MUST ATTEND event' for our present servers!** The Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Mr George Brand, is coming from Aberdeen to instruct us all on the finer points of Serving, and there will be fun activities, lots of food, and friendship for our young people!

Singing Group: would you like to be involved in an informal singing group in our

parish? The purpose of the group would be to meet every so often with the musicians, to look at new hymns and help with singing at the Sunday Mass. We are hoping to begin this group in September. If this sounds ideal to you (no pun intended!), please speak to Fr Domenico, or to the musicians.

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Each year thousands of adults choose to become Catholics. They come from different backgrounds, and for different reasons: some are already Christians from other traditions; some are from another faith, or no faith at all; some are non-Catholics who have been coming regularly to Mass for years with their Catholic spouses or relatives. If you would like to know more about the Catholic faith, please speak to Fr Domenico.

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 8th August at 4.30pm – Shona, Gi Gi, and Don. Anyone offering to help to keep the church nice and clean only needs to give one hour a month. You won't be left on your own! Ask Don for details.

"90 Club": Next draw Sunday 27th August – Would you like to join in? There are a few numbers left – only £2 a month. All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO: there is a break over the months of July and August. **NEXT EYES DOWN IN SEPTEMBER!** However, we always appreciate non-perishable items to give as prizes; they are much needed (chocolates, wine, toiletries, stationery, or any item you would like to win)! Can you help? Your support is essential! Very many thanks to all who contribute to make our fundraiser so successful!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia and John Drew + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Lachlan MacNeil + Rose Corbett + Murray Mackay + Eilidh MacPherson

Anniversaries: + Charlie Keeler + Margaret Smith +