



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year B**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 35: 4-7

Psalm: 145: 6-10

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: James 2: 1-5

Gospel: Mark 7: 31-37

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 6 September	Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year B (2nd Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Wednesday 9 September	Wednesday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 10 September	Thursday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time	Mass	19.30
Sunday 13 September	Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year B (2nd Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available every Sunday before Mass, and at any other time upon request.

### *Pope Francis' letter granting indulgence during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*

**Pope Francis announced Tuesday that all priests will have the authority to absolve the sin of abortion during the upcoming Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which will begin December 8.**

It is a bold move, and a spiritual one. Pope Francis is not addressing politicians. He is providing guidance to his Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization as he prepares the Catholic Church for a year of intentional mercy designed to foster spiritual renewal.

Pope Francis' offer is also not new — it widens a common Catholic practice. Traditionally, Bishops are the ones who have the authority to grant forgiveness for certain grave sins like abortion, and they have in the past also shared that power with priests. As the top bishop, the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis is making that practice as wide as possible during the Jubilee Year.

**Forgiving abortion is not the same as saying abortion is now acceptable: forgiveness implies a turning of heart, with the goal of change.** Pope Francis made this clear in his papal bull announcing the Jubilee Year in April. **"This is the opportune moment to change our lives! This is the time to allow our hearts to be touched!** When faced with evil deeds, even in the face of serious crimes, it is the time to listen to the cry of innocent people who are deprived of their property, their dignity, their feelings, and even their very lives," he wrote. "To stick to the way of evil will only leave one deluded and sad. True life is something entirely different. God never tires of reaching out to us. He is always ready to listen, as I am too, along with my brother bishops and priests."

The Vatican made this clear again Tuesday after the Pope's letter was announced. "Forgiveness of the sin of abortion does not condone abortion nor minimize its grave effects,"

Father Thomas Rosica, the Vatican's English-language press assistant, explained to reporters in an email. **"The fact that this statement is coming from the Pope and in such a moving, pastoral way, is more evidence of the great pastoral approach and concern of Pope Francis."**

While the news spread quickly Tuesday, focusing solely on abortion misses the bigger picture of what Pope Francis is trying to do. **Before he even mentioned indulgences for abortion in his letter, Pope Francis specifically addressed groups of people that can be easy to overlook — the sick, the elderly, the deceased, and the incarcerated — and directed special care be given to them during the Jubilee Year. His attention to those in prison is particularly noteworthy, as he imagines ways for them experience entering a church symbolically.** "May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom," Pope Francis writes.

**The move is also about the importance of the act of confession itself, and creating an environment of openness and safety in the church for people to confess.** Abortion divides — it divides families, partners, communities, politics. In the Catholic Church, it also keeps people from experiencing the full communion of the church and being able to participate with others in church life. **Confession for Catholics can be an opportunity for healing in a way that mere punishment prevents. The Pope's goal is to bring people together, and confession is a way to experience reunion.**

(Adapted from an article by Elizabeth Dias, TIME magazine online, 1/9/15).

## GENERAL NEWS

### Befriend a Prisoner

Brian is in the second half of a 'life' prison sentence. He has become a Catholic, and studied the Faith through Maryvale courses; he is very involved in the prison chaplaincy, and is responsible for preparing prisoners for baptism and the other sacraments. For five years he has benefited from friendly correspondence. He is now hoping to find penpals for the men he is instructing. It is a very rewarding ministry, in keeping with the Lord's request. Anyone interested, please contact Jane MacMaster (email [janeruth@btinternet.com](mailto:janeruth@btinternet.com) or phone: 01463 236 275)

**Rented accommodation sought** – Verena and Marcos are a young professional couple, both university graduates, and both practising Catholics, who are looking for a two-bedroom apartment / house to rent in the Culloden area. Can you help? If so, please speak to Fr Domenico, or contact him via the parish website.

**Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning:** at Smithton Green Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30am-12 noon. Come along and have a cuppa and some home-made cake. There will also be a raffle, bouncy castle, face painting, and much more.

**Dominic Nwaigwe** is well known to many of us, having served Mass here at St Columba's and throughout the Deanery. Dominic is one of our Diocesan seminarians, and he leaves Inverness on 14 September to begin postgraduate studies in Theology at Maynooth seminary, in Dublin. We wish him every grace and blessing, and assure him of our prayers. There will be a presentation for Dominic at St Mary's, at the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 13 September. If you would like to contribute to the presentation, cash or cheques (made out to 'St Mary's Inverness') can be handed in to St Mary's Parish Office, and the envelope clearly marked as 'Dominic's Presentation'.

## PARISH NEWS

### Confirmation classes: meeting on 10 Sept at 6.30pm

An initial meeting with all candidates and their parent(s), together with the catechists (Helen MacGilp and Ewen Macdonald), will take place at St Columba's on **10th September 2015 at 6.30 p.m.**, so we can discuss the course and confirm a timetable. We are planning to have four classes in 2015: two in October on Thursday the 1st and 8th, and then two in November on 12th and 19th. If you have not already completed a form, please speak to Helen or Ewen. NB. Bishop Hugh has provided us with a date for Confirmations next year: it will take place on **19 JUNE 2016**.

**FIRS (Friends in Retirement):** will have their first meeting of the 2015/2016 session, on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September, at 2.00pm in the Meeting Room, from 2.00pm-4.00pm. All are welcome to attend. Please see Chris Hamilton for more details.

**Prize Bingo:** Eyes down Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Items to give as prizes are always needed – can you help? Please do come and support this fund-raising initiative – it would be gratifying to see more parishioners at our Bingo! Many thanks to all who contributed items to last week's games.

**Cleaning:** this Wednesday, 9th September, at 6.30pm – Shona, Gi Gi, and Anne Marie.

**'90' Club – August Draw Winners:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Duncan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Helen; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Rhona. Our next draw takes place on **Sunday 27 September**, giving you plenty of time to get your own number; see Don for details. Please do take a number, and support the parish – only £2 monthly!

## FINANCES

St Columba's no. 1	£ 326.38
St Columba's building fund:	£ 163.81
– Thank you for your generosity and support –	

### St Columba's Accounts

<b>General Running Account:</b>	<b>Building Account:</b>
<b>Sort Code: 80-91-26</b>	<b>Sort Code: 80-91-26</b>
<b>Account No: 00809358</b>	<b>Account No. 00809390</b>

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** Anna Black + Peggy Horne + Leslie Murray + Mary Gribben + Michelle Campbell + Claire Macpherson + Des Gair

**Anniversaries:** Dr. Sally McEwen + Annie MacLeod + Brian O'Connell

## GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

**The Secular Franciscan Order** meets at 2.00 pm on the second Saturday of each month at St Columba's, Culloden. Contact Helen MacGilp (01463 792149). Visit [www.ofsgb.org.uk](http://www.ofsgb.org.uk).

**Prayer and Praise Group** every Thursday at St Columba's after 7.30pm Mass in the Lady Chapel. Call Brian (01463 790255) for details.

**Inverness Catenian Circle** meet on the Second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm. Meeting followed by dinner in the Craigmorie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045.) Visit [www.thecatenians.co.uk](http://www.thecatenians.co.uk).

**The Knights of St Columba** meets on the first Monday of every month in the Marian Room at St. Mary's, at 7.30 pm: contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Dedicated to the principles of charity, unity & fraternity in the local parishes. Visit [www.ksc.org.uk](http://www.ksc.org.uk).

**The Parents & Toddlers Group** meets on Wednesdays from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm in the Marian Room beside St Mary's.

**The Cenacolo Prayer Group** meets every Monday after the 6:00 pm Mass in St. Mary's. All welcome.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)** meets every fortnight, on Sundays, in the Marian Room at St Mary's, at 10.00 am. Requests for assistance and support can be made by contacting any SVP member or by dropping a note in a SVP collection box. Visit [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk).