



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, C**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Wisdom 18: 6-9  
Psalm: Ps 32: 1, 12, 18-20, 22  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19  
Gospel: Luke 12: 32-48

Date	Details	Service	Time
<b>Sunday 7 August</b>	<b>NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Building Fund)</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass</b>	<b>9.00am 9.30am</b>
Tuesday 9 August	Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (St Edith Stein)	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 10 August	Feast of St Lawrence	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 11 August	Memorial of St Clare	Mass	7.30pm
<b>Sunday 14 August</b>	<b>TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Building Fund)</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass</b>	<b>9.00am 9.30am</b>

### Nineteenth Sunday of the Year: Where your treasure is (Fr. John O'Connor OP)

What is most important to you in your life? It is a simple question and obviously a fundamental one. Yet answering it often proves difficult. There is a myth that to know oneself and answer such questions all we need to do is to 'look inwards' and 'see' what is there. However, in life we do not so much know ourselves in a complete fashion, as constantly discover what we really are through the situations we find ourselves in. You can only know you are brave by seeing how you react when actually faced with danger. We are also sometimes surprised by our reactions to situations, and thereby discover what we really think about something. We might have thought we would react otherwise, but did not, and so learn something new about ourselves.

What I am getting at is that we may answer whatever we like to the question, 'What is most important to you in your life?' - but we can only discover the answer by looking at how we act and react in our daily lives. Look at where your heart is, and you will find out what you really want, what you really treasure. As today's Gospel puts it: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of material possessions as capturing the heart, not allowing one to be free to follow him. So he challenges his disciples to reveal what it is they really value, following him or being caught up in material wealth.

Such conflicts are a common feature of life in general. I might tell you, quite sincerely, that God is what is most important to me in my life, but if my actions do not bear that out, then in some way I am mistaken and deceive myself. And, when it comes to issues as fundamental as this, wrong answers can be very costly indeed. Relationships have been destroyed, lives have been wasted, and people have become trapped in illusions, focusing on false goals, because of wrong answers to our simple question, 'What is most important to you in your life?'

You may tell your spouse that you work every hour God sends you so as to provide your family with comfort and security. Is that *really* true, or is it that you are driven by ambition? You may go out of your way to help those in need, but is it because you wish to help them or gain praise? You may claim that God is what is most important to you in your life, yet never get round to spending time in prayer. Or, conversely, you may hold yourself in low esteem, but treat people with great kindness and be prepared to stand up for principles you care about. When we give false answers to our simple question, we not only miss the opportunity to discover the truth, we also reduce the possibility of being able to change and to grow, because we think we have the truth when we do not. We give ourselves false diagnoses, and stop ourselves from being healed.

Today's Gospel takes issues such as that posed by our simple question very seriously indeed, even urgently. Jesus expresses this urgency in terms of having your lamps ready for when the master arrives. One way of understanding this passage is to view it in terms of the importance of getting your values sorted out before you die or before Christ comes again. But you can only do this if you can first give a true answer to our simple question.

However, our simple question is also highly relevant to the here and now. Throughout our lives we are presented with circumstances and opportunities which require that we make a choice. And if we are to make good choices, we need to have good values, and this requires knowing what values we have in reality. Today's Gospel is therefore a gift to us. It is a gift because it challenges us to face up to what is in fact most important to us, and in so doing how important God really is to us in our lives. If we come to answer truthfully our simple question, 'What is most important to you in your life?' - we will have at least made a beginning to evaluating our lives, taken an important first step to living authentically and honestly. So a great deal hangs on how we answer it.

## GENERAL NEWS

**“Youth Rally for Jesus” – Stratherrick, 20 August 2016:** Jesus our Liberator, our Healer, our Friend, our Companion. A Day of Discovery, Adventure, and Devotion, at Stratherrick (IV2 6UL), from 10:00am to 5.00pm. This day is for all young people, their friends, mentors and supporters. There will be programmes for different age groups. Lunch will be provided. Faith Exploration, discovering how God comes to us in Jesus to heal, and encourage us in prayers / exposition/Rosary Walk/ Mass at the Grotto - Our Lady of the Highlands. Phone 01463 233519, or e-mail: stmarysinverness@btinternet.com.

**Highland Deanery Annual Pilgrimage: Saturday 10 September 2016 – St Mary’s, Beaulieu.** The Principal Celebrant will be **Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB. Mass begins at 12 noon** and is followed by a procession to the old Priory. The pilgrimage concludes with a picnic.

**Medjugorje Pilgrimage, 22-29 October 2016** – Departing from Aberdeen. TOTAL COST: £650.00 (includes flights and half-board accommodation). Deposit of £100 required. Single room supplement: £130. For further details, contact Irma Allan, on (01224) 869889, or 07714 718708.

## PARISH NEWS

**Amoris Laetitia Reading Group:** come along to our informal, relaxed reading group, where we’ll explore and share some of the ideas in Pope Francis’ new teaching document, *Amoris Laetitia* (the Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family). We meet together **on Wednesdays, 7.00pm-8.30pm**, Full details on our parish website. Please note that our **last meeting takes place on Wednesday 10 August**, and we’ll be looking at Chapter 8 (Accompanying, Discerning, and Integrating Weakness in Families).

**“Mother Teresa of Calcutta – Missionary of Mercy”:** **Saturday 3 September, at St Columba’s.** This day event, **from 10.00am onwards**, is being organised to commemorate the great work and spirituality of Mother Teresa, on the eve of her Canonisation in Rome. The day will involve talks, film clips, poetry and prayer readings, and reflection. Everyone is warmly welcome. More details to follow!

**Ask your MP to support Early Day Motion 123 to Oppose Abortion being legalised up until birth.** The Royal College of Midwives (RCM) is being forced by their leader, Cathy Warwick, to support a campaign to allow abortion up until birth for any reason whatsoever. She did NOT consult her members on their views before implementing this new policy. 900 midwives have signed an open letter called ‘Not in Our Name’ opposing this new policy, and to express their anger and disappointment at the way this policy was imposed on them without their consent. Additionally, over 40,000 people have now signed the accompanying ‘Not In Our Name’ petition on the Citizen Go website, which opposes the new policy. MP Robert Flello has now tabled an Early Day Motion (EDM) 123 which opposes this policy being forced on the RCM, and calls for Cathy Warwick’s resignation. Please write to your MP asking them to add their signature to EDM 123. To read more about EDM 123 visit: [www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/123](http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/123).

**Church cleaning** – Tuesday 4.30pm: Shona and Gi Gi.

**“90 Club”:** Winners – no. 78: Heather; no. 43: Jock; and no. 36: David, Congratulations to all our winners! Our next draw will take place on Sunday 28th August. You could be a winner too! There are a few tickets still available; please ask Don.

**PRIZE BINGO:** The first ‘eyes down’ of the new session is **Friday 2nd September**. Items are needed to give as prizes for a line and full-house, if we are to continue the success of this fund raiser (toiletries, chocolates, candles, wine, and any other similar items). Thank you for the wonderful support you have given in the past.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Audrey O’Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Leslie Murray +

**Anniversaries:** + Margaret Smith + Bill Esselmont + Virla MacLennan + Peter Tierney +

## GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

**The Secular Franciscan Order** meets at 2.00pm 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 in the Lady Chapel at St Columba’s, after the 7.30pm Mass.

**Inverness Catenian Circle** meet on the Second Monday of every month, at 7.30pm (next meeting: 8 August). The meeting is followed by dinner at the Craigmonie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045). Visit [www.catenians.co.uk](http://www.catenians.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 (next meeting: 5 September): contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Visit [www.ksc.org.uk](http://www.ksc.org.uk).

**St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)** meets every fortnight, on Sundays, in the Marian Room at St Mary’s, at 10.00 am (next meeting: 7 August). 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).

**The St Mary’s Parent & Toddler Group** meets on Wednesdays in the Marian Room, 11.00am – 2.45pm.

**The St Ninian’s Parent & Toddler Group** is now on holiday. It will meet again when the schools resume in August. Enquiries to Jenny Wilson, tel. 07779 003434.