



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

8 OCTOBER 2017:

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 5: 1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79 (80): 9, 12-16, 19-20

2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-43

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 8 October	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 10 October	Tuesday of Week 27 in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	-
Wednesday 11 October	Wednesday of Week 27 in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	-
Thursday 12 October	Thursday of Week 27 in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	-
Sunday 15 October	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

October 2017: 100th Anniversary of the Final Apparition of Our Lady at Fatima

On 13 May, we celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children of Fatima (Portugal) in 1917. The three children were Francisco Marto and Jacinta Marto and their cousin, Lucia dos Santos. Lucia was the eldest of the three children and the youngest of seven siblings. Following the apparitions and the deaths of her cousins, at 14 years old, she was sent to the Dorothean Sisters of Villar and in 1928 became a sister of St. Dorothy. In 1946, she entered the convent of the Carmelite Sisters of Coimbra and was known as Sister Maria Lucia of the Immaculate Heart. Following her death in 2005 at the age of 97, Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 waived the normal five-year waiting period before the start of a canonization cause.

Francisco and Jacinta were beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1984 and were canonized by Pope Francis on May 13, during the 100th anniversary Mass.

There were six Marian apparitions to the shepherd children from 13 May to 13 October 1917. The most dramatic of the apparitions took place on 13 October of that year. Officials estimated that 55,000 people gathered on a rainy day near Cova da Iria and witnessed the "miracle of the sun." Some 20,000 other people witnessed the miracle from as far away as 25 miles. The sun started spinning in the skies and grew larger, almost as if it were to fall to earth. The people then noticed that their clothes were completely dry even though they had been standing in the pouring rain for some time. The local newspaper had a front-page story on "How the sun danced at midday in Fatima." While the people were caught

up in the solar miracle, the three children saw numerous apparitions. St. Joseph was seen with the Christ Child who seemed to be blessing the world. Mary was seen clothed in white with a blue mantel first as Our Lady of Sorrows and then as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. She revealed her identity to the children as "Our Lady of the Rosary." She asked them to pray the Rosary every day and to have a chapel built at Cova da Iria, the site of the apparitions.

The apparitions of Fatima occurred during a critical time in the life of Portugal and the world. The Fatima message emphasises central truths and devotions of the Catholic faith: the Blessed Trinity, the Eucharist, penance, the Rosary, and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners.

In 2002, Pope St. John Paul II added the 13 May Feast of Our Lady of Fatima to the general Roman calendar. 13 May 1981 was the day when St. John Paul II survived an attempt on his life in St. Peter's Square. The assassin's bullet that narrowly missed killing the pope was later inserted in a crown of Our Lady preserved at the Fatima shrine. Fatima is also closely linked with the collapse of Russian communism. After the attempt on his life, St. John Paul II authorised the disclosure of the third Fatima secret in conjunction with the 13 May 2000 beatification ceremony for Francisco and Jacinta Marto. It is estimated that some 4-5 million people visit the Fatima shrine each year, and more are expected for this centennial year. Pope Francis made a pastoral visit to Portugal in May to celebrate the 100-year anniversary.

[Adapted from: <http://saltandlighttv.org/fatima/>]

GENERAL NEWS

Saturday 28 October: 'Strong Foundations' – Deanery Day of Renewal for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at the Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Stratherrick (IV2 6UL). The day begins at 10.30am, and concludes at 4.00pm. Lunch provided. All welcome!

Friday 27-Sunday 29 October: Retreat for Mothers of Children and Teens – hosted by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, at Kilcoy Castle. To register, or for further details, please contact Sr Anna Christi OP at: op@rcda.scot. See the poster on the notice board.

PARISH NEWS

St Columba's Parish Pilgrimage to Rome, 8-12 October: Please note that there will be no midweek Masses in the coming week, due to our Parish Pilgrimage. Please keep our 12 pilgrims in your prayers, and be assured that we will all remember you in our own devotions in the Eternal City.

Calling all volunteers: can you help the Parish? – we are very short of volunteers, and are looking for: **4 CLEANERS** to join the present team. Why not pair up with a friend to help? Only 1 HOUR a month! **2 PASSKEEPERS** – this involves standing in the entrance foyer and ensuring that latecomers are able to locate a seat at the start of Mass. Not very demanding, but much needed, as our numbers continue to grow! Can you help? Please speak to Fr Domenico.

Items for Blythwood Trust shoeboxes: Ainsley is collecting items for shoeboxes for the Blythwood Trust. She would be grateful for any of the following items: sewing kits, candles, screwdrivers and kitchen utensils, as well as toiletries (no talcum powder), stationery, new make-up, clothes (t-shirts, pyjamas, jumpers, shirts, etc.). Donations of shoeboxes welcome as well. In order to make up the boxes, **we would be grateful if all items could be handed in to St Columba's by Sunday 22nd October.** Many thanks.

Piety Stall: our 2018 Catholic diaries are now in stock, together with lots of tempting gifts, holy items, and spiritual books. Why not browse the stall?

Inverness Foodstuff: Request for Volunteers – Our project was established in 2015 and provides hot meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Drop-in Centre at Ness Bank Church for those who are homeless and vulnerable. The Drop-in Centre also has the services of the Highland Council Benefits Team, the NHS Dental Team, the NHS Harm and Reduction Team together with Community Nursing Staff. We are hoping to extend the project and open on Saturday afternoons for soup, sandwiches, IT

and board games, and are looking for volunteers to staff this. If you are interested and can spare a few hours each week, fortnightly, or monthly we would be delighted to have your help. For further information contact Agnes Fraser on 07521145539 or email invernessfoodstuff@gmail.com.

Sacrament of Confirmation, 2018 – Parents who would like their child to be prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Columba's on Sunday 7 October 2018 should speak to Fr Domenico, Helen, or Ewen as soon as possible to register their children.

St Columba's Mothers and Toddlers Group – this group will be starting after the half-term holidays, on **Monday 23 October onwards, from 9.30am-11.30am.** The group is looking for the following items: a slide, small trikes, baby buggies / prams, baby seats and mats, musical instruments, and any toys that people feel will be useful. If you would like to donate items, or help in any way with this group, please speak to Fr Domenico or to Clare Greig after Sunday Mass, or email clareoke@yahoo.com.

"CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS" is coming to St Columba's!! – This is a multi-part film series that focuses on a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but also transformed the course of civilisation. Join us, on **Wednesday 25 October at 7.00pm**, and throughout the month of November, as we discover some of the 'pivotal players' who shaped the Church and changed the world!

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 10th October – Mary and Karen. Anyone offering to help to clean the church only needs to give one hour a month.

"90 Club" – Next draw takes place on 29 October! You could be our next winner if you have a number; only £2 monthly. All profits go to our Building Fund. Please ask Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO: Next 'eyes down' on **Friday 3 November at 7.00pm.** Come and take part in a fun-filled family evening. Refreshments provided during the interval! Items to give as prizes are always required items to give as prizes always needed (chocolates, wine, smelly candles, toiletries, gift vouchers, tins of sweets/biscuits...). Your support is much appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

Anniversaries: + John Campbell + Maureen Kelly +