



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

8 SEPTEMBER 2019:

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,
YEAR C**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Wisdom 9: 13-18

Psalm: Ps 89 (90): 3-6, 12-14, 17

2nd Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 8 September	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 10 September	Tuesday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time	NO MASS AT ST. COLUMBA'S	---
Wednesday 11 September	Wednesday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time Visit of the Relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux Reception; MASS at 7.00pm	NO MASS AT ST. COLUMBA'S St. Mary's: Reception St. Mary's: MASS	--- c. 6.30 pm 7.00 pm
Thursday 12 September	Visit of the Relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux Mass, Angelus at 12 noon, and Departure Thursday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Annie MacLeod (Anniversary)	St. Mary's: Veneration St. Mary's: MASS Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.45 am 10.00 am 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 13 September	St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Mass Intention: Private Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon
Saturday 14 September	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Mass Intention: Private Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.30 am 11.00 am
Sunday 15 September	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Why do we venerate relics?

“So completely do the saints correspond to God’s grace that – for a millennium and more after their bodies have lain lifeless – their very bones remain a channel of grace. Long before the coming of Christ, the prophet Ezechiel beheld a vision of a field of dry bones, and the Lord God said to the bones: “Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live” (Ez 37:5). The Lord God breathed on the bones, and indeed they returned to life. Yet the breath of God accomplishes still more than that. It renders the bones of his chosen people not only *living*, but truly *life-giving*..

By the time of Jesus, believers took the doctrine of relics for granted. In the Gospels we find a woman who “suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years.” Though she had given up on medical doctors, she knew that she could trust in the touch of something that had touched the sacred. As Jesus passed by, she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I shall be made well” (Mt 9:20-21). And she was made well. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he breathed upon the Church (Jn 20:22) and imparted his life-giving

Spirit. Thereby his healing ministry passed to the saints; and the New Testament shows them busy about it.. Decades passed, and still “God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them” (Acts 19:11-12).

Is it any wonder that the early Christians continued to place great trust in the relics of the saints? Archaeologists have turned up ample evidence of this devotion, dating back to the deaths of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome. The faithful took care to preserve their remains, and pilgrims streamed to the city to venerate them and touch them... Christians believed in the marvellous exchange: Christ became what we are so that we might become what he is. He came to divinize us, body and soul and flesh and bones and blood. So the bodies of the saints now convey his life to the world. As it was in the ancient Church, so it remains today: to venerate relics is something distinctly and characteristically Christian.” (Adapted from: Scott Hahn, *Signs of Life*).

GENERAL NEWS

THIS WEEK! – The Relics of St. Thérèse! – In an extraordinary spiritual gift to all of us, the relics of the Little Flower, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, will be in our Diocese, 9-11 September 2019.

The dates are as follows:

- Monday 9th September at 7.00pm:
Arrival at St. Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen.
- Tuesday 10th September:
at St. Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen.
- Wednesday 11th September at 11.00am:
Arrival at Pluscarden Abbey.
- **Wednesday 11th September**
- **5.00pm: Arrival at St. Mary's, Inverness**
- **7.00pm: Mass with the Relics**
- **Overnight Vigil with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, and other devotions.**
- **Thursday 12th September: 10.00am Mass with the school children**
- **12 noon: Angelus and departure of the relics**

St. Vincent de Paul Society Outing, 17 September – an outing is planned to **CROMARTY** on Tuesday 17 September, **leaving St. Mary's in Huntly Street at 10.45am, after morning Mass, and returning at approx. 4.00pm.** The outing includes lunch at the Cromarty Royal Hotel and time to visit the historic Court House, Hugh Miller's Cottage, or just explore the village in your own time. The cost is only £2.00 payable on the day. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to go, please contact St. Mary's office on: 233519.

PARISH NEWS

Barcelona/Catalonia Pilgrimage: thank you for your prayers during our time in Spain; be assured that we prayed for all of you, our parish family. Photographs were placed on our Facebook page; have a look on our website for further photos!

Easyfundraising: since introducing this initiative on our website, **we have received some £632.39** in donations payments through the Easyfundraising scheme. At the moment, we have **23 parishioners** signed up on the site. Imagine how much extra we would receive in donations for the parish if we had 50 or more parishioners using Easyfundraising?! It costs absolutely nothing to you, and is so simple: whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be collecting free donations for St Columba's Church, Culloden! There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including John Lewis, Sainsbury's, etc. – It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Go to the following internet address: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcolumbasculloden/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to *easyfundraising* first to find the site you want and start shopping.

3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever! There are no catches or hidden charges and St Columba's Church, Culloden will be really grateful for your donations. Please do support us!

Friday 20 September, 7-9 pm – “Baptised and Sent: Living and Passing on the Catholic Faith”. We are delighted to be able to host internationally renowned speaker **David Wells**, for what will surely be an engaging and inspiring evening, and an ideal preparation for Missionary Month in October. It is a real privilege to have a speaker of David's calibre at St. Columba's – please spread the word about this special event! If you are able to help with the arrangements for the evening, please sign up on the sheet in the entrance foyer.

Highland Foodbank – Harvest Appeal: Your donations help to provide emergency food and support to local people in crisis. As part of our Harvest Appeal, we would be grateful for the following items: * **Long Life Juice** * **Tins of Potatoes** * **Tins of Mince/Stew** * **Oatcakes/Crackers** * **Tins of Ham** * **Shower Gel/Shampoo.** Please leave these items in the plastic box at the front door of the church. Thank you!

Confirmations 2020 – preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin in the Autumn. **If you are starting S1 this year, or if you are already in Secondary School**, please register initial interest with Fr. Domenico. A meeting will be held in early October.

BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP: the group meets every Monday morning in the Meeting Room, from 9.30am to 11.30am. Come along and join in the fun!

CLEANING TEAM – Monday 9th September at 1.30pm: Isobel, Margaret and Don. Could someone offer a kind hand to assist? It is a lot of work for one person! Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Don.

“90 Club”: **NEXT DRAW Sunday 29th September.** LOTS OF TIME TO GET A NUMBER INTO THE DRAW ask Don. £2 MONTHLY, THREE PRIZES TO BE WON.

PARISH BINGO CONTINUES ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH. Items to give as prizes are urgently required, such as: gift vouchers, toiletries, chocolates, wine. and other unusual things. **THANK FOR ALL YOUR HELP WITH THIS.**

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Vinnie Walton + Michael Good + Laura Johnstone + Fr. George Hutcheon + Norman Wood + Helen Macdonald + John Macdonald + Alec Mackintosh +

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