



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

12 NOVEMBER 2023:
32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 4)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Wisdom 6: 12-16
Resp. Psalm: 62 (63): 2-8
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 12 November	32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 802 ff.) ✠ REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ✠ Second Collection: Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 14 November	Tuesday of Week 33 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 16 November	St. Margaret of Scotland (Feast)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 17 November	Funeral of Liz Heinowski, RIP	Funeral Service	12 noon
Saturday 18 November	Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter & Paul	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 19 November	33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 805 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Members of the Wedding

According to marriage customs of Jesus' day, a bride was first "betrothed" to her husband but continued for a time to live with her family. Then, at the appointed hour some months later, the groom would come to claim her, leading her family and bridal party to the wedding feast that would celebrate and inaugurate their new life together. This is the background to the parable of the last judgment we hear in today's Gospel. In the parable's symbolism, Jesus is the Bridegroom (see Mark 2:19). In this, He fulfils God's ancient promise to join Himself forever to His chosen people as a husband cleaves to his bride (see Hosea 2:16-20). The virgins of the bridal party represent us, the members of the Church. We were "betrothed" to Jesus in Baptism (see 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27) and are called to lives of holiness and devotion until He comes again to lead us to the heavenly wedding feast at the end of time (see Revelation 19:7-9; 21:1-4). As St. Paul warns in today's Epistle, Jesus is coming again, though we know not the day nor the hour. We need to keep vigil throughout the dark night of this time in which our Bridegroom seems long delayed. We need to keep our souls' lamps filled with the oil of perseverance and desire for God— virtues that are extolled in today's First Reading and Psalm. We are to seek Him in love, meditating upon His kindness, calling upon His name, striving to be ever more worthy of Him, to be found without spot or blemish when He comes. If we do this, we will be counted as wise and the oil for our lamps will not run dry (see 1 Kings 17:16). We will perceive the Bridegroom, the Wisdom of God (see Proverbs 8:12-21, 35; 9:1-6), hastening toward us, beckoning us to the table He has prepared, the rich banquet which will satisfy our souls. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

It is clear that with this parable [the five foolish and five wise bridesmaids], Jesus wants to tell us that we must be prepared for the encounter with him. Not only for the final encounter, but also for the everyday great and small encounters .. if we are vigilant and correspond to God's grace by doing good, we can serenely await the bridegroom's coming. (*Angelus* Address, St. Peter's Square, 8 November 2020)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (pp. 802 ff.)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 802: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 540: The Creed

p. 573: Preface VII of Sundays in Ordinary Time
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

Today: Remembrance Sunday, 12 November – we will have our own Service of Remembrance in front of our War Memorial, at the conclusion of the 9.30am Mass. If you have served – or are presently serving – in HM Armed Forces, or in any form of public service, please do consider attending the event in uniform. Our Second Collection will be for the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Thursday 16-Sun 19 November: the Breccbannoch Relics at St. Columba's! The relics of our patron saints – St. Andrew, St. Columba, and St. Margaret of Scotland – are coming to our parish, contained within a replica of the original Breccbannoch reliquary. The reliquary will arrive in time for veneration on the Feast of St. Margaret, and will be on display at the following times: Thursday 16 November: 5.30pm-8.00pm; Friday 17 November: 8.30am-1.00pm; Saturday 18 November: 8.30am-11.30am; Sunday 19 November: 8.30am-11.30am. Leaflets with information and prayers will be available. Please spread the word!

Liz Heinowski, RIP: The Funeral Service for Liz will take place at St. Columba's on Friday 17 November at 12 noon. You are all very welcome to attend. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

November: Month of the Holy Souls – November is the month when we remember our dearly departed. If you would like to have any deceased relatives or friends remembered at Mass during November, please place their names in the brown envelopes in the foyer, and hand these in to the Sacristy. All names will be placed in front of the altar, and a selection will be read out at every Mass.

Sunday Meals during Advent – at a recent meeting of the Highland Deanery priests, it was proposed that we organise a hot meal for those who are struggling and on the bread-line. This will be done **on each Sunday of Advent (3, 10, 17, 24 Dec), from 1.30pm-3.30pm**. The venue for this will be the church hall at **St. Mary's, in Huntly Street, Inverness**. It is hoped that there will be volunteers from all of the parishes in the local area. If you feel you may be able to help in any way, please contact the St. Mary's office at: 01224 233519. **A planning meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 November at 7.00pm** in the Marian Room.

Highland Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar – can you help those in need this Christmas? The Highland Foodbank is organising parcels for Christmas. If you would like to help them, please consider donating the items listed each day on the posters and handouts in the entrance foyer of the church. Thank you.

Advent Reflections: each Wednesday evening during Advent, the Priests of the Highland Deanery have arranged reflections in different parishes. Here are the dates, locations, and speakers:

Wednesday 06 December (St. Nicholas) – St. Ninian's Inverness – Fr. Justin Edathil

Wednesday 13 December (St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr) – St. Mary's Beaulieu – Fr. Dominic Nwaigwe

Wednesday 20 December – St. Columba's Culloden – Fr. Andrzej Niski

Each evening will consist of the following programme, from 6.00pm-7.30pm:

6.00pm-6.45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, & opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession

6.45pm-7.05pm Advent Reflection, followed by Night Prayer, Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 2 December, 2.00pm-4.00pm: Children's Christmas Party! A date for your diaries! Santa has been notified, and has promised us that he will come to visit St. Columba's! Please note, Mums: Selection Boxes wrapped up! There will be music, games, surprises, and more! Please spread the word, to ensure that as many children as possible come along and join in the fun!!

Christmas Hamper – buy a ticket (or two..!) and our lovely Christmas hamper could be yours! Tickets are on sale at the front door; only £1 a strip. Please include your name and contact details on the stub, so we can call you when you win (!)

90 Club: Next Draw on Sunday 26 November! – Would you like to be a winner? See Don for details. Envelopes for your contributions towards next year's draws are available on the table at the front door; please take one home, fill in the details, and return when you are ready.

Christmas Prize Bingo! – on **Friday 1 December. 'Eyes down' at 7.00pm**. All welcome! Items for prizes are always needed, such as: toiletries, chocolates, jigsaws, store vouchers, wine/spirits, and anything that you would like to win yourselves!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Kathleen Macpherson, Marian Ellis, Chris Hamilton, Rina Herbison, David Munro, Ellen Williams, Rose Corbett, Winnie Ferrari, Eileen Anne Millar, Mary & Esther Smith, Linda Macdonald, Pat Peteranna, Lauren Marsh, Katie MacCormick, Brian Hamilton, Dorothy Macdonald, Gracie Bannerman

RIP: Liz Heinowski

Anniversaries: Alex MacDonald, Margaret Anne Welsh, Margaret Marshall, Michael & Manji Dannish, Mary MacInnes, Dennis O'Driscoll, Jim Quinn, Archbishop Emeritus Mario Conti