



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

16 JULY 2023:
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 3)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-11
Resp. Psalm: Psalm 64 (65): 10-14
2nd Reading: Romans 8: 18-23
Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 16 July	15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 740 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 18 July	Tuesday of Week 15 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 20 July	Thursday of Week 15 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 22 July	St. Mary Magdalen (Feast) Mass Intention: Tom Macdonald, RIP (Fourth Anniversary Tomorrow)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 23 July	16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 744 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Word's Return

Today's readings, like last week's, ask us to meditate on Israel's response to God's Word—and our own. Why do some hear the word of the kingdom, yet fail to accept it as a call to conversion and faith in Jesus? That question underlies today's Gospel especially. Again, we see, as we did last week, that the kingdom's mysteries are unfolded to those who open their hearts, making of them a rich soil in which the Word can grow and bear fruit.

As we sing in today's Psalm, in Jesus, God's Word has visited our land to water the stony earth of our hearts with the living waters of the Spirit (see John 7:38; Revelation 22:1).

The first fruit of the Word is the Spirit of love and adoption poured into our hearts in Baptism, making us children of God, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle (see Romans 5:5; 8:15-16). In this, we are made a "new creation" (see 2 Corinthians 5:17), the first fruits of a new heaven and a new earth (see 2 Peter 3:13).

Since the first humans rejected God's Word, creation has been enslaved to futility (see Genesis 3:17-19; 5:29). But God's Word does not go forth only to return to Him void, as we hear in today's First Reading.

His Word awaits our response. We must show ourselves to be children of that Word. We must allow that Word to accomplish God's will in our lives. As Jesus warns today, we must take care lest the devil steals it away or lest it be choked by worldly concerns.

In the Eucharist, the Word gives Himself to us as bread to eat. He does so that we might be made fertile, yielding fruits of holiness.

And we await the crowning of the year, the great harvest of the Lord's Day (see Mark 4:29; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 1:10)—when His Word will have achieved the end for which it was sent. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

If we want, with the grace of God, we can become good soil, ploughed and carefully cultivated, to help ripen the seed of the Word. It is already present in our heart, but making it fruitful depends on us; it depends on the embrace that we reserve for this seed. (Angelus Address, St. Peter's Square, 12 July 2020)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (pp. 740 ff.)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 740: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 540: The Creed

p. 569: Preface IV of Sundays in Ordinary Time
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

THIS SATURDAY, 22 July – Day of Recollection at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Stratherrick: 'The Seven Sorrows of Mary'. With Fr. James Bell and Fr. Ryszard Swider. The day begins at 10.00am, and concludes at 4.00pm. For details, please see the poster on the notice-board. If you will be attending, please inform the office at St. Mary's, on 01463 233519. All welcome!

24-27 July: Mary's Meals at 'Refuel Scotland' – This year, Mary's Meals will have a stall at Refuel Scotland, a family-friendly Christian festival within the grounds of Gordon Castle Estate, on the banks of the river Spey. We are looking for volunteers to help with looking after the Mary's Meals hub, selling home-made goods and handing out leaflets. If you are able to give either a morning or afternoon of your time during the event (24-27 July), we would be very grateful. To register your interest, or simply to find out more, please e-mail sally.davidson@marysmeals.org, or call Sally on 07763 99437.

Highland Foodbank, July/August – can you help, by donating an item or two from the following list? The Foodbank store is short of: tins of corned beef, cartons of long life juice, jars of pasta sauce, oatcakes/crackers, tins of: chopped tomatoes, ham, and mince/meatballs, tins of fruit, washing-up liquid, deodorant, toilet rolls, new or used bags for life. Thank you for your support.

Wednesday 2 August at 7.30pm: "Oggie! Oggie! Oggie!" – A new modern solo play, based on the *Confessions* of Saint Augustine. Tickets available to buy in advance, otherwise can be bought 'on the night'; **price: £5.00**. Running time: one hour, followed by a post-performance Q&A, with tea and biscuits. NB: contains themes unsuitable for persons under 12 years of age. Please spread the word!

St. Andrew Community Youth Group – every Friday in the church hall at St. Mary's, in Huntly Street, Inverness. Ages 6-11: 5.00pm-6.00pm; Ages 12-18: 6.30pm-9.00pm. For details: youth@standrewx.org, or call 07754 891808.

'Angel Stories for Children': A Colouring Book – this book, complete with stories and drawings to colour in, was compiled by Ishbel McGillivray-McGregor, a former parishioner of St. Columba's. It only costs £2, and is available at our Piety Stall.

Appeal for unwanted magazines – Do you have any magazines that you have finished reading? If you have any suitable for male prisoners in HMP Inverness, please drop them off at St Columba's. Titles could include Cars, Sport, Fitness, Fishing, Food, Music or anything similar. Many thanks.

Piety Stall – Why not check out our extensive range of items at our Piety Stall. Your one-stop shop for all things Catholic!

Sacrament of Confirmation in 2024! – Bishop Hugh has kindly agreed to come to the parish and bestow the Sacrament of Confirmation upon our candidates on **Sunday 21 April 2024**. If your child is of the appropriate age (P7/S1), please do get in contact with Fr. Domenico as soon as possible, please.

90 CLUB: NEXT DRAW ON SUNDAY 30 JULY! Would you like to take part? You too could be a winner! Three good prizes each month. For details, please speak to Don.

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

RIP: Esther Grant, Shona MacInnes

Anniversaries: Samuel Thomson, Richard Utton, Bill Muir