



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

17 SEPTEMBER 2023:
24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 4)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:33 – 28:9
Resp. Psalm: 102 (103): 1-4, 9-12
2nd Reading: Romans 14: 7-9
Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 17 September	24 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 772 ff.)	Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 19 September	St. Januarius, Bishop, Martyr	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 21 September	St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist (Feast)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 23 September	St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 pm 8.45 pm 9.30 pm
Sunday 24 September	25 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 776 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: First and Last

The house of Israel is the vine of God, who planted and watered it, preparing the Israelites to bear fruits of righteousness (see Isaiah 5:7; 27:2–5).

Israel failed to yield good fruits and the Lord allowed His vineyard, Israel's kingdom, to be overrun by conquerors (see Psalm 80:9–20). But God promised that one day He would replant His vineyard and its shoots would blossom to the ends of the earth (see Amos 9:15; Hosea 14:5–10).

This is the biblical backdrop to Jesus' parable of salvation history in today's Gospel. The landowner is God. The vineyard is the kingdom. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise (see Ephesians 2:11–13). In the Lord's great generosity, the same wages, the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites, will be paid to those called last, the rest of the nations.

This provokes grumbling in today's parable. Doesn't the complaint of those first laborers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus' prodigal son parable (see Luke 15:29–30)? God's ways, however, are far from our ways, as we hear in today's First Reading. And today's readings should caution us against the temptation to resent God's lavish mercy.

Like the Gentiles, many will be allowed to enter the kingdom late—after having spent most of their days idling in sin.

But even these can call upon Him and find Him near, as we sing in today's Psalm. We should rejoice that God has compassion on all whom He has created. This should console us, too, especially if we have loved ones who remain far from the vineyard.

Our task is to continue labouring in His vineyard. As Paul says in today's Second Reading, let us conduct ourselves worthily, struggling to bring all men and women to the praise of His name. (Scott Hahn)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (pp. 772 ff.)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 772: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 540: The Creed

p. 569: Preface IV of Sundays in Ordinary Time
p. 611: Eucharistic Prayer III
p. 631: Communion Rite

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.

'Power of Grace' Retreats with the Dominican Sisters, at St. Michael's Centre in Tomintoul – these take place on the following dates: **22-24 September: S1 Students; 3-5 November: S2-S3 Students.** With outdoor activities, fun games, the opportunities to make new friends from around the diocese, music and prayer, and much more! For more information, or to register, please contact Sr. Bernadette Marie at: op@rcda.scot

Monday 25 September-Sunday 8 October: The Shroud of Turin Exhibition! – at St. Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen. A full-size replica of the Shroud is coming to our Cathedral! There will also be Group Guided Tours organised, together with screenings of 'The Silent Witness', and Q&A. Fr. Domenico is organising a group to visit on **Monday 2 October**, via car sharing. If anyone would like to attend, please let Fr. Domenico know ASAP.

3-10 October 2024: "Walking in the Footsteps of St. John Paul II: A Pilgrimage to Wojtyła's Poland" – this is advance information of a pilgrimage that is being planned and led by Fr. Domenico, together with Fr. Laurence Gambella (St. Mary's, Inverness), and Fr. Ryszard Świder, a priest based at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Krakow. We will stay at this Shrine, located next to the Pope John Paul II Centre, with anticipated visits to: Częstochowa, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Wadowice, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Auschwitz, and much more. Estimated cost: £1,200 pp; please note that the dates are not definitive. If you would like to register your interest, without obligation, please speak to Fr. Domenico.

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.

90 Club: Next draw takes place on Sunday 24 September! Would you like to take part? Please speak to Don.

Culloden Indoor Carpet Bowls – every Monday at 10.15am until noon, at the Smithton/Culloden Youth Centre next to the Library (Keppoch Road). See Don for details.

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

RIP: Mary Pene MacNeil, Donald Allan MacQuarrie, Mary Frances Mackinnon, Murdoch Nicholson

Anniversaries: Malcolm MacDonald, Morag McInnes, Katie Anne McDaid, Bridget Tierney, Eddie Pockock, Morag McIntyre