



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

18 JUNE 2023:
11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 3)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 19:2-6
 Resp. Psalm: Psalm 99 (100):2-3, 5
 2nd Reading: Romans 5:6-11
 Gospel: Matthew 9:36–10:8

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 18 June	11 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 725 ff.)	Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 20 June	Tuesday of Week 11 in Ordinary Time	No Liturgies	---
Thursday 22 June	St. John Fisher, Bishop, & St. Thomas More, Martyrs Mass Intention: Mary Thomson (Health & Intentions)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 24 June	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist Mass Intention: Deacon John McEwan, SFO, RIP (First Anniversary Today)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 25 June	12 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 729 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass ** Pluscarden Pilgrimage Mass **	9.30am 3.00pm

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Have No Fear

In this Sunday's Gospel (cf. Mt 10:26-33) the invitation that Jesus addresses to His disciples resonates: to have no fear, to be strong and confident in the face of life's challenges, as he forewarns them of the adversities that await them. Today's passage is part of the missionary discourse, with which the Teacher prepares the Apostles for their first experience of proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Jesus persistently exhorts them to "have no fear". Fear is one of the most terrible enemies of our Christian life. Jesus exhorts: "have no fear", "fear not". And Jesus describes three tangible situations that they will find themselves facing.

First and foremost, the hostility of those who would like to stifle the Word of God, by sugar-coating it, watering it down, or by silencing those who proclaim it. In this case, Jesus encourages the Apostles to spread the message of salvation that He has entrusted to them. For the moment, He has transmitted it cautiously, somewhat covertly, among the small group of disciples. But they will utter his Gospel "in the light", that is, openly; and will proclaim it "upon the housetops" — as Jesus says — that is, publicly.

The second difficulty that Christ's missionaries will encounter is the physical threat against them, that is, direct persecution of them personally, to the point of being killed. This prophesy by Jesus is realized in every age: it is a painful reality, but it attests to the faithfulness of witnesses. How many Christians are persecuted even today throughout the world! They suffer for the Gospel with love, they are martyrs of our days. And we can say with confidence that they are more numerous than those of the earliest times: so many martyrs, just for the fact of being Christians. Jesus advises these disciples of yesterday and today who suffer persecution: "do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul" (v. 28). We should not allow ourselves to be frightened by those who seek to extinguish evangelizing power with arrogance and violence. Indeed, they can do nothing against the soul, that is, against communion with God: no one can take this away from disciples, because it is a gift from God. The only fear that a disciple should have is that of losing this divine gift, closeness, friendship with God, giving up living according to the Gospel, thereby acquiring moral death, which is the effect of sin.

Jesus indicates as the third type of test that the Apostles will have to face, the sensation, which some may feel, that God himself has abandoned them, remaining distant and silent. Here too, Jesus exhorts them not to fear, because even while experiencing these and other pitfalls, the life of disciples lies firmly in the hands of God who loves us and looks after us. They are like three temptations: to sugar-coat the Gospel, to water it down; second: persecution; and third: the feeling that God has left us alone. Even Jesus suffered this trial in the Garden of Olives and on the Cross: "Father, why have you *forsaken* me?", Jesus asks. At times one feels this spiritual barrenness; we must not fear it. The Father takes care of us, because our value is great in His eyes. What matters is frankness, the courage of our witness, our witness of faith: "recognizing Jesus before men" and going forth doing good.

(Pope Francis, Regina Caeli Address, 21 June 2020)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (pp. 725 ff.)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 725: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 540: The Creed

p. 567: Preface II of Sundays in Ord. Time
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

This Sunday, 25 June: Diocesan Pilgrimage to Pluscarden – Bishop Hugh is extending an invitation to ALL parishioners to attend this annual diocesan event together. There will be opportunities to relax in the grounds of the Abbey, with a chance to meet people from other parishes. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own picnics; however, refreshments will also be available from 12 pm in the refreshments tent. **The focus for the pilgrimage will be on the ministry of Altar Servers**, who will be most welcome to attend, with their cassocks, cottas, and Guild of St. Stephen medal (if applicable):

1.00pm - Exposition in the Lady Chapel until 2.30pm

1.00pm - Individual confessions in the parlours at St. Benedict's Retreat until 2.30pm

3.00pm - Mass of the day, followed by a Marian procession to the garden facing St. Benedict's Retreat.

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.

PIETY STALL – looking for First Holy Communion gifts, or ideas for presents? 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: Draw next Sunday, 25 June! 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, Tony Lightfoot, Mary & Esther Smith, Linda Macdonald, Pat Peteranna, Lauren Marsh

Anniversaries: Margaret Smith, Tom Waters, Bunny Mitchell, Christopher Sharp, Andrew Townsend