



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

23 JULY 2023:
16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 4)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19
Resp. Psalm: Psalm 85 (86): 5-6, 9-10, 15-16
2nd Reading: Romans 8: 26-27
Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 23 July	16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 744 ff.) Second Collection: St. Andrew Community WYD Appeal	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 25 July	St. James the Apostle (Feast) Mass Intention: Eileen Webb, RIP (Anniversary Today)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 27 July	Thursday of Week 16 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Samuel Thomson, RIP (Anniversary on 23 July)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 29 July	Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus Mass Intention: Donald MacCormack, RIP (Recently Departed)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 30 July	17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 748 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Of Wheat and Weeds

God is always teaching His people, as we hear in today's First Reading. And what does He want us to know? That He has care for all of us; that though He is a God of justice, even those who defy and disbelieve Him may hope for His mercy if they turn to Him in repentance.

This divine teaching continues in the three parables that Jesus tells in the Gospel today. Each describes the emergence of the kingdom of God from the seeds sown by His works and preaching. The kingdom's growth is hidden like the working of yeast in bread; it's improbable, unexpected, as in the way the tall mustard tree grows from the smallest of seeds.

Again, this week's readings sound a note of questioning: Why does God permit the evil to grow alongside the good? Why does He permit some to reject the Word of His kingdom?

Because, as we sing in today's Psalm, God is slow to anger and abounding in kindness. He is just, Jesus assures us—evildoers and those who cause others to sin will be thrown into the fiery furnace at the end of the age. But by His patience God is teaching us that above all He desires repentance and the gathering of all nations to worship Him and to glorify His name.

Even though we don't know how to pray as we ought, the Spirit will intercede for us, Paul promises in today's Epistle. But first, we must turn and call upon Him. We must commit ourselves to letting the good seed of His Word bear fruit in our lives. So, we should not be deceived or lose heart when we see weeds among the wheat—truth and holiness mixed with error, injustice, and sin. For now, He makes His sun rise on the good and the bad (see Matthew 5:45). But the harvest draws near. Let's work so that we might be numbered among the righteous children—who will shine like the sun in the kingdom of the Father. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

[...] Jesus teaches us a different way of looking at the field of the world, of observing reality. We are called to learn God's time — which is not our time — and also God's "gaze": thanks to the beneficial influence of uneasy anticipation, what were weeds or seemed to be weeds can become a good product. It is the reality of conversion. It is the prospect of hope!
(Angelus Address, St. Peter's Square, 23 July 2017)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (pp. 744 ff.)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 744: 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

Today's Second Collection: St. Andrew Community World Youth Day Appeal - The St. Andrew Community is a group of sisters, canonically defined as a Public Association of the Faithful, which has been formed by Bishop Hugh. They have been in the Diocese of Aberdeen for about 11 years, the last two of which has been spent here in the St. Joseph's Deanery in the Highlands. Like their patron, St. Andrew, their mission is to go out to bring others to Him. Their apostolic work is particularly focused on the young and their families, particularly the poorest and most disadvantaged. Each Summer, they take a large group of teenagers abroad, to visit the shrines of Europe. They receive no financial assistance from the Diocese, and depend solely on benefactors, donations, and divine providence. They will be taking 75 teenagers to Portugal to Lisbon for World Youth Day, at a cost of £60,000. Can you help them in any way, via our Special Collection today? Many thanks.

This week, 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!

26 August: Updated Safeguarding training – this will be available in the meeting room on 26th August 2023. There will be two sessions, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. but only one needs to be attended. Sessions will be about 1 ½ hours long. As this is all new materials, **all existing PVG checked volunteers should attend** and hopefully any new volunteers. It is only for those working for the Church with children or vulnerable adults. Any such volunteer must have the training and a current PVG check for the Parish. Ewen would especially be grateful if any of the adults coming to Children's Liturgy with their children on a Sunday morning could attend training and get a PVG check so that he does not have to cancel any sessions because there are insufficient numbers of PVG checked persons in attendance (minimum of 2). If you would like to attend, or have any queries, please send an e-mail to Ewen at ewen1.macdonald@hotmail.co.uk.

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.

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: Draw next week, 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, Mary Pene MacNeil

RIP: Donald MacCormack, Evelyn Devlin

Anniversaries: Tom Macdonald, Samuel Thomson, Eileen Webb, Linda Robson, Ellen Grant, Edwin Wales, Nan Ward