St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW
Tel: (01463) 794619 (Sacristy) / (01463) 794993 (House)
E-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com
Website: www.stcolumbasculloden.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden
Parish Priest: Fr. Domenico Zanrè
Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Dr. Helen Macdonald

~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

24 JULY 2022:
17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year C (II); Psalter: Week 1)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 18: 20-32
Resp. Psalm: 137 (138): 1-3, 6-8
2nd Reading: Colossians 2: 12-14
Gospel: Luke 11: 1-13

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 24 July	**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time** **(p. 1029 – Year C)**	**Holy Mass**	**9.30 am**
Tuesday 26 July	Sts. Joachim and Anne Mass Intention: Eileen Webb, RIP (Anniversary Yesterday)	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 28 July	Thursday of Week 17 in Ordinary Time	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 30 July	St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor Mass Intention: Tom MacDonald, RIP (Third Anniversary Today)	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 31 July	**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time** **(p. 1033 – Year C)**	**Holy Mass**	**9.30 am**

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: The School of Prayer

So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
This Sunday's readings are about prayer and, more specifically about petitionary prayer. We are invited to pray to God for what we need in the expectation that God will answer our prayers and will give us what is good for us.
In Genesis we see Abraham bartering with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, beating down the price like a customer in an Oriental market place, a little more each time until Abraham gets God down to just ten people. In the Gospel the disciples ask Christ to teach them how to pray and He gives them the Lord's prayer, with its simple set of petitions, and encourages them to persist in prayer with the vivid example of the reluctant friend, cajoled into giving what is wanted, despite every attempt to refuse.
So, we are invited to pray for concrete things, the things we need, the things we judge to be good for us. And such petitionary prayer is part of what we might call the dignity and fulfilment, even the adventure, of what it means to be human beings, created in the image and likeness of God. Thomas Aquinas tells us that God wills to bring about things in answer to our prayers. God gives us the dignity of being able to share in His work of providence by our own actions, in praying for things

to come about, so that we can acquire confidence in God and recognise him as the origin of what is good for us. However, if there is one kind of prayer that is unpopular with us and perhaps more unpopular with us in the modern age than ever before, it is such petitionary prayer. We feel reluctant to ask for concrete things, because we feel that very often such prayers are not answered.
Such a view is understandable, but wrong. Faith tells us that God does answer all our prayers. However, the consequence of what faith tells us must be true is perhaps even more difficult for us to understand and accept. We must believe that God does answer all our prayers, but the reality must then be that the answer is so often no, no to the particular thing that we ask for. God does bring about good things in answer to our prayers, but what that good might be is often very different from any expectation and understanding we might have. If we ask, it is given to us; if we seek, it is found; and if we knock, the door is opened, but what is given and found is not what we might have expected… the more deeply we enter the journey of prayer, the more concrete our relationship with God becomes, the more truly we can call God, 'Father,' and the more fully we can realise the wonderful dignity we do have as human beings, as called to share in the work of God in bringing about the good of the world. (Fr Martin Ganeri, OP)

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(AN EXTENDED) THOUGHT FOR THE DAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

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The Gospel this Sunday (Lk 11:1-13) opens with the scene of Jesus who is praying alone, apart from the others; when he finishes, the disciples ask him: "Lord, teach us to pray" (v. 1); and He says in reply, "When you pray, say: 'Father...'"(v. 2). This word is the "secret" of Jesus' prayer, it is the key that he himself gives to us so that we too might enter into that relationship of confidential dialogue with the Father who accompanied and sustained his whole life.

With the name "Father" Jesus combines two requests: "hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come" (v. 2). Jesus' prayer, and the Christian prayer therefore, first and foremost, makes room for God, allowing him to show his holiness in us and to advance his kingdom, beginning with the possibility of exercising his Lordship of love in our lives.

Three other supplications complete this prayer that Jesus taught, the "Our Father". There are three questions that express our basic needs: *bread, forgiveness* and *help in temptation* (cf. vv. 3-4). One cannot live without bread, one cannot live without forgiveness and one cannot live without God's help in times of temptation. The *bread* that Jesus teaches us to ask for is what is necessary, not superfluous. It is the bread of pilgrims, the righteous, a bread that is neither accumulated nor wasted, and that does not weigh us down as we walk. *Forgiveness* is, above all, what we ourselves receive from God: only the awareness that we are sinners forgiven by God's infinite mercy can enable us to carry out concrete gestures of fraternal reconciliation. If a person does not feel that he/she is a sinner who has been forgiven, that person will never be able to make a gesture of forgiveness or reconciliation. It begins in the heart where you feel that you are a forgiven sinner. The last supplication, "*lead us not into temptation*", expresses the awareness of our condition, which is always exposed to the snares of evil and corruption. We all know what temptation is! (Pope Francis, Angelus, 24 July 2016)

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PARISH NEWS

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TODAY'S LITURGY (CTS Missal): 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C (pp. 1029 ff.)

p. 521: Introductory Rites	p. 569: Preface IV of Sundays
p. 1029: Readings & Proper Prayers	p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 541: The Creed	p. 631: Communion Rite

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) – this is available after Saturday morning Mass, and at any other mutually convenient time. Simply get in touch with Fr. Domenico to make an appointment.

Would you like to become an Altar Server? – Any child who has made his or her First Holy Communion is eligible to apply to become an Altar Server. Would you like to join our small team? Full training will be given! If you are interested, please speak to Fr. Domenico.

Holy Land Pilgrimage, 2-9 March 2023: Fr. Domenico is leading an 8-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, following the footsteps of Jesus: from Jerusalem and Bethlehem to Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. There is a special 'early bird' price **until 15 July** for this 8-day / 7-night pilgrimage of **£1,169**. The price includes: a non-stop return flight from the UK to Tel Aviv airport, an air-conditioned luxury touring coach and professional local guide, and en-suite half-board hotel accommodation in Tiberias and Bethlehem. For further details, together with online booking, please go to this link: www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/hl0768/

Hospital Visits – if you or a loved one is being admitted to Raigmore Hospital, please do let Fr. Domenico know. The official Catholic Chaplain is Fr. Laurence Gambella, who is based at St. Mary's in Huntly Street.

90 Club: DRAW NEXT WEEK, Sunday 31 July. You too could be a winner! Only £2 monthly, with three prizes to be won! See Fr. Domenico.

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FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Ian Macdonald, Kathleen Macpherson, Marian Ellis, Chris Hamilton, Rina Herbison, David Munro, Ellen Williams, Rose Corbett, Winnie Ferrari, Colin MacMillan, Angus Cumming, Godfrey Herman, Eileen Anne Millar

Anniversaries: Linda Robson, Ellen Grant, Edwin Waters, Howard Nicolls, Patrick Macpherson, Canon Charlie Stanley