



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**8 OCTOBER 2023:**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 3)**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 5: 1-7  
Resp. Psalm: 79 (80): 9, 12-16, 19-20  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 4: 6-9  
Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-43

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 8 October	27 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 784 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 10 October	Tuesday of Week 27 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 12 October	Thursday of Week 27 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 14 October	Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Intention: Nigel Robson, RIP (Anniversary Today)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 15 October	28 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (pp. 788 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am

### 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Living on the Vine

In today's Gospel Jesus returns to the Old Testament symbol of the vineyard to teach about Israel, the Church, and the kingdom of God. And the symbolism of today's First Reading and Psalm is readily understood.

God is the owner and the house of Israel is the vineyard. A cherished vine, Israel was plucked from Egypt and transplanted in a fertile land specially spaded and prepared by God, hedged about by the city walls of Jerusalem, watched over by the towering Temple. But the vineyard produced no good grapes for the wine, a symbol for the holy lives God wanted for His people. So God allowed His vineyard to be overrun by foreign invaders, as Isaiah foresees in the First Reading.

Jesus picks up the story where Isaiah leaves off, even using Isaiah's words to describe the vineyard's wine press, hedge, and watchtower. Israel's religious leaders, the tenants in His parable, have learned nothing from Isaiah or Israel's past. Instead of producing good fruits, they've killed the owner's servants, the prophets sent to gather the harvest of faithful souls. In a dark foreshadowing of His own crucifixion outside Jerusalem, Jesus says the tenants' final outrage will be to seize the owner's son and to kill him outside the vineyard walls. For this, the vineyard, which Jesus calls the kingdom of God, will be taken away and given to new tenants—the leaders of the Church, who will produce its fruit.

We are each a vine in the Lord's vineyard, grafted onto the true vine of Christ (see John 15:1-8), called to bear fruits of the righteousness in Him (see Philippians 1:11) and to be the "first fruits" of a new creation (see James 1:18). We need to take care that we don't let ourselves be overgrown with the thorns and briars of worldly anxiety. As today's Epistle advises, we need to fill our hearts and minds with noble intentions and virtuous deeds, rejoicing always that the Lord is near. (Scott Hahn)

### Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

In any age, those who have authority, any authority, also in the Church, in the People of God, may be tempted to work in their own interests instead of those of God. And Jesus says that true authority is when one performs service; it is in serving, not exploiting others. The vineyard is the Lord's, not ours. Authority is a service, and as such should be exercised for the good of all and for the dissemination of the Gospel. It is awful to see when people who have authority in the Church seek their own interests. (Angelus Address, 4 October 2020)

## PARISH NEWS

**Today's Liturgy: 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (pp. 784 ff.)**

p. 521: Introductory Rites

p. 784: Readings & Proper Prayers

p. 540: The Creed

p. 571: Preface VI of Sundays in Ordinary Time

p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II

p. 631: Communion Rite

**'Power of Grace' Retreat with the Dominican Sisters, at St. Michael's Centre in Tomintoul for S2-S3 Students** – this retreat take place on **3-5 November**. 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](mailto:op@rcda.scot)

**'Encounter Christ' Retreats** – these retreats organised by the Dominican Sisters, and held at Greyfriars Convent in Elgin, are being advertised for single women from the ages of 18 to 35. There are two retreats: **17-19 November 2023**, and **15-17 March 2024**. Suggested donation: £30. For more information, or to register, please contact Sr. Bernadette Marie at: [op@rcda.scot](mailto:op@rcda.scot)

**Saturday 2 December, 2.00pm-4.00pm: Children's Christmas Party!** A date for your diaries! Santa has been notified, and has promised us that he will come to visit St. Columba's! Please note, Mums: Selection Boxes wrapped up! There will be music, games, surprises, and much more! Please spread the word, and let's ensure that as many children as possible come along and join in the fun!!

**Christmas at the Piety Stall!** – we have many new items in stock! Are you looking for Christmas cards? Look no further! Are you in need of a Rosary in this Marian month of October? We have all sizes and styles! Advent calendars, nativity scenes and baby Jesus statuettes, as well as Catholic diaries for 2024 are all on their way! Plus, we have many other tempting gifts, holy items, and spiritual books. Why not browse the stall, and attend to your Christmas shopping at the same time?

**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](mailto: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.

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

**90 Club: Next Draw on 29 October!** Envelopes for your contributions towards next year's draws are available on the table at the front door; please take one home, fill in the details, and return when you are ready. Are you interested in taking part in the 90 Club? Please speak to Don.

**St. Columba's Culloden: Prize Bingo returns!** – on **Friday 3 November & Friday 1 December**. Eyes down at 7.00pm. All welcome! Items for prizes are always needed, such as: toiletries, chocolates, jigsaws, store vouchers, wine/spirits, and anything that you would like to win yourselves!

## 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, Brian Hamilton

**RIP:** Murdoch Nicholson, Donald Archie MacLellan, Elizabeth Aitken, Peter Simpson

**Anniversaries:** John Campbell, Nigel Robson, Frankie Bills