



St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



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6th June 2021
Feast of St Columba

DEAR FRIENDS, this weekend we celebrate St Columba's Patronal Festival, giving thanks for the life and legacy of Columba, the first Abbot of Iona. I do hope that these readings, prayers and reflections make a connection with you.

Collect

O GOD, who called your servant Columba from among the princes of Ireland to be a herald and evangelist of your kingdom: grant that your Church, remembering his faith and courage, may so proclaim the gospel, that people everywhere will come to know your Son as their Saviour, and serve him as their king; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Readings

Isaiah 61: 1 – 3

Ephesians 4: 14 – 19

Luke 12: 32 – 37

Reflection

BORN IN IRELAND AROUND THE YEAR 521, Columba was trained as a monk by Finnian and then founded several monasteries himself, including probably that of Kells. Before leaving Ireland to settle on the Isle of Iona. He was accompanied by twelve companions and that number grew as the monastic life became more established and well known. Columba seems to have been an austere and at times, harsh man who reputedly mellowed with age. He was concerned with building up both the monastery and its life and of enabling them to be instruments of mission in a heathen land. He converted kings and built churches, Iona becoming the starting point for the expansion of Christianity throughout Scotland. In the last four years of his life, when his health

had failed, he spent the time transcribing books of the Gospels for them to be taken out and used. He died on 9th June 597. (Taken from *Celebrating the Saints*, compiled by Robert Atwell. SCM. 2004)



Pre Covid thousands of pilgrims visited Iona each year, including members of our two churches in recent years, once as part of St Columba's Centenary Celebrations. Iona remains as a central hub for ecumenical and interfaith Celtic spirituality. It truly is a place where the veil between heaven and earth is very thin.

When Columba travelled the 60 miles across the sea with his companions in their coracle to Scotland he let go of his past and prepared for a new beginning; the bay upon which he landed is now called St Columba's Bay or the Bay of New Beginnings. He became known as a healer, a miracle worker, tamer of wild beasts and a seer who communed with angels. He read, prayed, and transcribed Psalms every day. It is recorded that on the night of his death he went into the abbey for Vespers (evening prayer) and reclining on the steps of the chancel, offered his final blessing to his monks. His words very similar to those of Jesus' final words to his disciples. Columba said "Be at peace. Love one another. The Holy Spirit will be your comfort and advocate and will provide everything you need." As he spoke these words, the church became filled with heavenly light. Columba breathed his last breath on Iona.



Many pilgrims, including many of those in our parties, take a pilgrim walk to the Bay of New Beginnings, where they pick up a stone that represents something that needs to be released, a regret, a bad habit, something that is holding them back from wholeness. That stone is then thrown into the seas of God's forgetfulness. Pilgrims are then invited to pick up another stone which represents some yearning for new beginning and they take that stone home. May we all this feast of St Columba let go of whatever we need to be released and hold onto God's promise of new beginnings in our lives.

Prayers

A PRAYER OF ST COLUMBA: *Let me bless Almighty God, whose power extends over sea and land, whose angels watch over all. Let me study sacred books to calm my soul: I pray for peace, kneeling at heaven's gates. Let me do my daily work, gathering seaweed, catching fish, giving food to the poor. Let me say my daily prayers, sometimes chanting, sometimes quiet, always thanking God. Delightful it is to live on a peaceful isle, in a quiet cell, serving the King of kings.*



Loving God, we thank you for the life and example of Columba and all your saints. We remember before you all congregations that bear his name and the residents of that most Holy Island of Iona. Bless the work of the Iona Community, Bishop's house and Rev Joyce Watson. May all who visit this Holy Isle be touched by your healing spirit and return home refreshed and renewed. We ask for your guiding hand on all who seek to share your love in our world, all church leaders and missionaries. All who live in community devoting their lives to prayer and service. We ask your blessing upon our Scottish Episcopal Church, on Primus Mark, Bishop John and Bishop Keith Riglin - Bishop of Argyle and the Isles. We pray for your peace to reign in our troubled and divided world, at this time especially in the Holy Land, Afghanistan and Syria. We pray for leaders around the world as they seek to beat this pandemic, may they work together for the greater good with a willingness to share vaccines and good practice. Strengthen the leaders of our United Kingdom in the days ahead and for those involved in health care as they put in place strategies for dealing with huge backlog of operations and treatments. And as our lives begin to open up again, we give thanks that we can make plans, meet family and friends again whilst we remember all who are alone and lacking hope.

We remember those who have asked for our prayers including Rev Ruth and those from our church families:

from St Columba's: Katrina Barron, Rose MacLaren, Anne MacMillan, Brian Knotts, Howard Spencer, Lorna Aitken, Kath Stutt, Anthea & Katie McAlpin, Geoffrey Gerrard, Doug and Pat Laurie,

Young Harry, Paul & Janice Moffat.

And from St Peter's: Anna Lovelock, Kathleen Rae (Anne's friend), Cisley Moss, Michael Patrick (Ruthie's friend), Peter McOwan, Harry and Connie Payne, Rita Manion (David's mother), Annie Gibbs (Olivia's mother-in-law), Joe Lavery, Bob Philip (Andy's father), Dot Pringle, Brenda Cook, Father John, Ruthie Cadell, David Szkudlarek, Jan Robson and Corinne Anderson; and for all their families.

We pray for the souls of those who have died in recent days and for all who mourn. We remember those from our church families whose anniversary of death falls this week:

from St Columba's: John McConnell, Steve Judson and Michael John Duff.

from St Peter's: Doreen Lambert and Alexander McMartin.

Blessing

GOD THE HOLY TRINITY make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.



Notices

DEAR FRIENDS, summer has arrived, hurrah! Isn't it wonderful to have warm and sunny weather? And more good news with us moving down to Level 1 this weekend. This will make such a difference in so many aspects of our lives not least our worship for we will be permitted to sing in church again subject to the usual requirements of wearing face coverings and social distancing and sanitising our hands. Another hurrah!

For St Peter's please book your seat. Spaces as we know remain limited but everyone is welcome to request a seat whether a family group or otherwise so book with Jane 843176 as soon as possible if you would like to attend a Sunday service.

Services for the coming week:

Feast of St Columba: St Peter's @ 9.30am (Zoomed live)

St Columba's @ 11.15am.

Service for St Peter's Families @ 12.30pm.

Tuesday 1st June: St Peter's Eucharist @ 10.30am.

Wednesday 2nd June: St Columba's Eucharist @ 10.30.

St Columba's Monday morning coffee and chat via Zoom has been a regular in the calendar through lockdown life. Now that restrictions are easing and people can meet once again there will be a break over the summer and then meet again monthly. Many thanks to Jackie Jackson for hosting these weekly sessions, they have certainly

lifted our spirits!

Similarly, the Wednesday Prayer Room via Zoom has served its purpose for now and will take a break.

The latest editions of The Communicant (the Edinburgh diocesan newsheet) are available now available on the Diocesan website, via the link below: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/publications/the-communicant/>.

Nothing can stop the **Provincial Youth Week!** Glen 21 has now been confirmed for 1-7 August. It will be a 'blended' week of online interactivity, offline things to do and some in-person meet-ups in regional hubs around the Province. Places are filling up fast! Booking is still open, so **if there are teenagers connected to your church who need something to look forward to this summer, direct them to Glen21.online for full information**, FAQs and booking details. If you have any questions about Glen 21 please feel free to email Claire at YouthandChildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org. Claire Benton-Evans.

Pastoral visits – Now that I am fully vaccinated I am very comfortable coming to visit people in their own homes but only if they feel comfortable too. And meetings in gardens are a good alternative if the weather is conducive. And if it isn't the telephone continues to be an excellent way to communicate from the comfort of our homes. If you would like a chat, please do phone me and be assured that Peter and I continue to hold you all in our prayers.

Rev Christine

SEC Morning, Evening and Night Prayer Liturgies

Morning, Evening and Night Prayer liturgies are available at www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices

Rev Christine and Rev Peter will be saying Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer each day in their own homes and invite you to join in from yours.

On Thursday mornings at 9am they will be sharing a virtual service via Zoom. If you would like to join in, the link every week will be:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/756114372?pwd=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGwZz09>

Meeting ID: 756 114 372 Passcode: 002784.

For the coming week beginning on Pentecost 2 (Trinity 1). On Tuesday we celebrate Ephrem the Syrian, Deacon and Teacher of the Faith, 373. On Wednesday we celebrate Columba of Iona, Abbot, 597. On Friday we celebrate Barnabus, Apostle and on Saturday we celebrate John Skinner, Priest, 1807, and John Skinner, Bishop, 1816

Sunday 6 th	Week C	1 Samuel 18:1-16	Romans 9:1-13	Luke 8:41-56
Monday 7 th	Week C	Deuteronomy 30:1-10	2 Corinthians 10:1-18	Luke 18:31-43
Tuesday 8 th	Week C	Deuteronomy 30:11-20	2 Corinthians 11:1-21a	Luke 19:1-10
Wednesday 9 th m) (e)	Festivals	Genesis 12:1-9 Isaiah 52:7-12	Hebrews 11:8-16 Acts 20:25-35	Luke 12:32-37
Thursday 10 th	Week C	Sirach 44:19 - 45:5	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Luke 19:28-40
Friday 11 th (m) (e)	Festivals	Sirach 31:3-11 Job 29:11-16	Acts 4:32-37 Acts 9:26-31	John 15:12-17
Saturday 12 th	Week C	Sirach 46:1-10	2 Corinthians 13:1-14	Luke 20:1-8

The Collect for the week except Wednesday and Friday

O God, our hope and strength, the source and end of all our prayers: because our mortal nature is weak we can do nothing good without your help; support us with your grace, that in keeping your commandments, we may ever remain in your love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

On Wednesday, the Collect for St Columba

O God, who called your servant Columba from among the princes of Ireland to be a herald and evangelist of your kingdom: grant that your Church, remembering his faith and courage, may so proclaim the gospel, that people everywhere will come to know your Son as their Saviour, and serve him as their king; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

On Friday, the Collect for Barnabas, apostle

Lord God Almighty, who filled your holy apostle Barnabas with faith and the Holy Spirit, and set him apart to proclaim your word to the nations: grant us, like him, the same gifts; that we may encourage the faint-hearted, remember the poor, and bring others to know you, the living God; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Each day we pray for:

- The world: people, governments and leaders of the countries and specific issues arising in the news. Issues relating to social justice, peace, suffering and creation. And of course at this time for the devastating global covid-19 crisis.
- Our wider church, the SEC, our diocese, individual churches.
- Our community – residents in our area. For those with no faith, we pray for their introduction to the Christian faith, and for those with faith, that their faith may develop further.
- Those known to us who are unwell or in need.
- Our own church communities.



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