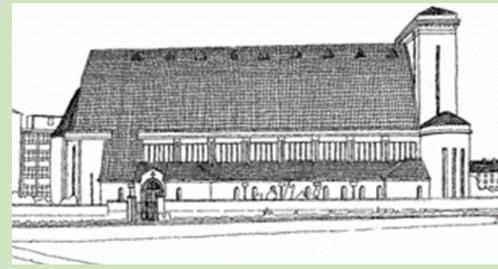




*Almighty Father, we wish to commit our parish of St Columba of Iona into Your merciful hands. We want to be a vibrant and flourishing parish formed after your heart, a family of missionary disciples of Jesus where love and service spread out from us to everybody. Touch the hearts of all of us and everybody within our parish to experience once again the power of the risen Christ so that our hearts can be filled with your love, joy, courage, strength and unity. We commit to you, in a special way, the sick, the house-bound, the struggling, even the weary. May Mary our mother be always close to us her children in all our hour of need. We make all these prayers through the merits of Jesus Christ your son. Amen.*



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## **25th Sunday of YEAR A, 20/09/20**

### **First Reading—Isaiah 55:6-9**

#### **My thoughts are not your thoughts**

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

### **2ND Reading—Philippians 1:20-24,27**

#### **Life to me is Christ; but death would bring me more**

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

## GOSPEL—Matthew 20:1-16

### **Why be envious because I am generous?**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD

What is our vision of God? Do we see Him as an over-strict headteacher or a permissive spoiler? Fortunately, God is none of these. He is a God of mercy but also a just God who requires us to “avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the Gospel of Christ” - which in essence means keeping the commandments especially the one we most often forget “Love one another as I have loved you”. To the extent to which we love and are compassionate towards others, God will be merciful to us also.

## NOTICE MASS TIMES

SATURDAY EVENINGS	4:30PM
SUNDAY S	10AM, 12 NOON, 5PM
MONDAYS—FRIDAYS	10AM
SATURDAY MORNINGS	10AM

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Sunday at a 2pm Special Mass—because of number limitation—3 people were Baptised, Confirmed and received their first Holy Communion: Anna, Lola and Caroline. This Sunday, please God, our primary school children—5 in number—will receive their first Holy Communion. This is in addition to one of our young readers at Mass—Benedict—who received his first Confession and First Holy Communion last weekend too. The Parish is really grateful to Helen Border who prepared all the Catechumens.

### Parish Youth Ministry Training ONLINE!

Are you interested in finding out more about parish-based youth ministry? You can do so from the comfort of your own home this Oct/Nov by joining RCAG Youth online for various training sessions that cover what a youth night looks like with younger youth and young adults and how to speak to and pray with young people. There are four sessions but you are free to attend as many as you want. For more information and to register, check out the PYM Training events on [www.rcagyouth.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.rcagyouth.eventbrite.co.uk)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO ST COLUMBA’S OR TO SUPPORT THE ADORATION CHAPEL, PLEASE USE THE DONATION STAND AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE.