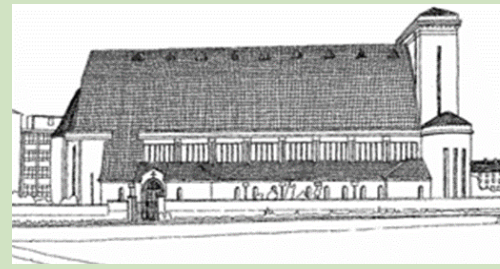




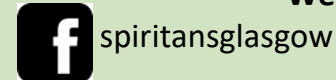
*Almighty Father, we wish to commit our parish of St Columba of Iona into Your merciful hands. We want to be a vibrant and flourishing parish formed after your heart, a family of missionary disciples of Jesus where love and service spread out from us to everybody. Touch the hearts of all of us and everybody 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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## **29th Sunday of YEAR A, 18/10/20**

### **First Reading—Isaiah 45:1,4-6**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: 'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

### **Second Reading—1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

## GOSPEL—Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, ‘Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man’s rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?’ But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, ‘You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.’ They handed him a denarius, and he said, ‘Whose head is this? Whose name?’ ‘Caesar’s’ they replied. He then said to them, ‘Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.’

### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD

“Apart from me all is naught”, says the Lord in the First Reading. We think we are independent and can do very well without God. We have taken God away from the public and even private spheres. We have to become humble once more and realise that “God is all, human beings are nothing” and that “God alone matters” and we are all very dispensable—even Caesar (whoever he/she is). True worship of God—unlike the hypocrisy of the Pharisees—involves realising our nothingness before God and our ‘co-nothingness’ with others, as somebody says ‘We are all ‘little nothings’’. TO PLEASE GOD WE NEED TO SEE HIM 24 HOURS EVERYDAY IN THE ‘MARKET SQUARES’ WHERE OUR FELLOW LITTLE NOTHINGS ARE. Some people spend hours and hours praying to themselves only to come out of the Church and think that they are better than others, only to come out of the Church and are indifferent to the plight of their suffering neighbours. IF THEY PRAYED TO GOD, THEY WOULD ALSO SEE HIM IN THE STRUGGLING PEOPLE AROUND THEM. It may take a lifetime to realise that GOD TAKES THE PART OF THE POOR, THE MARGINALISED, THE SECLUDED. It’s plastered all over the Gospels—WHATEVER YOU DO TO THE LEAST OF MY BROTHERS, YOU DO IT TO ME. What belongs then to God? Everything: Our adoration, our talents but also our heart, our love, our compassion and charity for others.

## NOTICE MASS TIMES

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- \* **FRATELLI TUTTI:** The New encyclical released by our Pope some few days ago. It is a very good reflection on peace and fraternity in the world. In it, Pope Francis addresses the ‘globalisation of indifference’ that has enveloped the world, and he invites us to emulate the Good Samaritan in the Bible, in reaching out to others.
- \* **Online giving:** We would like to invite parishioners who can to explore the possibility of online giving instead of the cash collection. Many people are already doing that and we are very grateful for it. The bills have simply refused to obey lockdown!
- \* **OCTOBER:** On the 16th of October 1978, Pope John Paul II was elected the first non-Italian Pope in a long time. His feast day falls on the 22nd of October. As we continue to thank God for the gift of his pontificate and sanctity, we ask through his intercession for the grace to come closer to God each day for ourselves .
- \* **Confirmations:** The Archbishop has approved the Sacrament of Confirmation for our S1 students who couldn’t receive it sooner because of the virus. It will take place on the 29th of October at 5pm. We have 3 candidates.

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 OR YOU COULD ASK FR AMBROSE FOR PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS. THANKS.