



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**11 FEBRUARY 2018:  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 31 (32): 1-2, 5, 11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 31 – 11: 1

Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45

Date	Details	Service	Time
<b>Sunday 11 February</b>	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>
Tuesday 13 February	Tuesday of Week 6 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Maria D'Almeida, RIP	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 14 February	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>~ A DAY OF FASTING</b> <b>&amp; ABSTAINING FROM MEAT ~</b>  <b>SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION</b> <b>AVAILABLE 1 HOUR BEFORE</b> <b>MORNING AND EVENING MASSES</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.00 am 11.00 am 11.30 am  6.30 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 15 February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday Mass Intention: Calum MacIntyre (Health)	Sacrament of Reconciliation <b>* Stations of the Cross *</b> Mass	6.30 pm <b>7.00 pm</b> 7.30 pm
<b>Sunday 18 February</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

### Sixth Sunday of the Year: Make Me Clean

The episode of the healing of the leper takes place in three brief phases: the sick man's supplication, Jesus' response, the result of the miraculous healing. The leper beseeches Jesus, "kneeling", and says to Him: "If you will, you can make me clean" (v. 40). Jesus responds to this humble and trusting prayer because his soul is moved to deep pity: *compassion*. "Compassion" is a most profound word: compassion means "to suffer-with-another". Jesus' heart manifests God's paternal compassion for that man, moving close to him and *touching him*. And this detail is very important. Jesus "stretched out his hand and *touched him*.... And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean" (vv. 41-42). God's mercy overcomes every barrier and Jesus' hand touches the leper. He does not stand at a safe distance and does not act by delegating, but places Himself in direct contact with our contagion and in precisely this way our ills become the motive for contact: He, Jesus, takes from us our diseased humanity and we take from Him his sound and healing humanity. This happens each time we receive a Sacrament with faith: the Lord Jesus "touches" us and grants us his grace. In this case we think especially of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which heals us from the leprosy of sin.

Once again the Gospel shows us what God does in the face of our ills: God does not come to "give a lesson" on pain; neither does He come to eliminate suffering and death from the world; but rather, He comes to take upon Himself the burden of our human condition and carries it to the end, to free us in a radical and definitive way. This is how Christ

fights the world's maladies and suffering: by taking them upon Himself and conquering them with the power of God's mercy.

The Gospel of the healing of the leper tells us today that, if we want to be true disciples of Jesus, we are called to become, united to Him, instruments of his merciful love, overcoming every kind of marginalization. In order to be "imitators of Christ" (cf. 1 Cor 11:1) in the face of a poor or sick person, we must not be afraid to look him in the eye and to draw near with tenderness and compassion, and to touch him and embrace him. If evil is contagious, so is goodness. Therefore, there needs to be ever more abundant goodness in us. Let us be infected by goodness and let us spread goodness! (Pope Francis, Angelus, 15/02/15).



Pope Francis and Vinicio Riva, St Peter's Square, 6/11/13

## GENERAL NEWS

**“Let it be done unto me according to your word: how Mary helps us to be filled with God”** – a Marian course for Lent, taking place in the Marian Room, at 32 Huntly Street, **on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm. First meeting: Tuesday 20 February.** 40 places available; £1 per person to cover the cost of the course-book. Please register your interest beforehand, or come on the night. For enquiries and further information, please contact PJ in the St Mary’s Office, on 01463 233519.

**Fundraiser Indian Buffet Night, with Raffle and Silent Auction** – at George’s Restaurant, Queensgate, Inverness, on Wednesday 28 February, at 7.00pm. In aid of the forthcoming youth pilgrimage to Lourdes. Tickets: £20/Adult; £10/child. For further information, or to reserve a ticket, please contact Iona on 07851 420948.

### **Lent Station Masses 2018 – Fridays at 7.00pm:**

16 February: St Mary’s, Inverness  
23 February: St Mary’s, Nairn  
2 March: St Aidan’s, Aviemore \* (coach)  
9 March: St Lawrence’s, Dingwall  
16 March: Christ the King, Brora \* (coach)  
23 March: St Duthac’s, Dornie (coach)  
\* Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

Coaches are available to Aviemore (£7), Brora (£8), and Dornie (£10). If you would like to reserve a seat on any of them, please contact PJ in the St Mary’s Office, on 01463 233519.

**St John Ogilvie Mass 2018: Saturday 10 March, at St Thomas’, Keith.** Mass begins at 2.00pm. Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB; Homilist: Fr Domenico Zanrè. All welcome.

**Chrism Mass 2018: Thursday 22 March, at St Peter’s, Buckie.** Mass begins at 6.00pm. All welcome.

## PARISH NEWS

**START OF LENT – Ash Wednesday, 14 February:** Please note that there will be **TWO Masses** on Ash Wednesday at St Columba’s: at 11.00am, and 7.30pm. Remember that **Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence:** we fast by consuming only one main meal, and we abstain from eating meat.

**Stations of the Cross:** each Thursday evening during Lent – beginning Thursday 15 February – we will pray the Stations of the Cross, from 7.00pm, before the Evening Mass.

**FREE Daily Lent Reflections** - Would you like a deeper, more powerful Lent this year? Then sign up for Bishop Robert Barron’s FREE daily Lent reflections at [LentReflections.com](http://LentReflections.com). Each day, from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, the creator

and host of the CATHOLICISM Faith Formation programme will send you a short reflection, straight to your inbox. There’s simply no better way to super-charge your Lent. Be sure to sign-up at [LentReflections.com](http://LentReflections.com)!

**‘From the Dark Wood to the Beatific Vision: Journeying Through Lent with Dante’.** This Lent, at St Columba’s, we’ll journey down through the ever-narrowing circles of Hell, up the seven-terraced Mount Purgatory, and finally ascend to Paradise! Our guide will be the fourteenth-century Florentine poet, Dante Alighieri, and we’ll look together at his literary masterpiece, *The Divine Comedy*, using it as a means to examine the nature of sin, the healing love and mercy of God, and the redemption of humanity. **The weekly meetings will run throughout Lent, and begin on Wednesday 21 February at 7.00pm.** Please spread the word – all welcome!

**‘Walk with Me: A Lenten Journey of Prayer’** this pocket-sized booklet is a tremendous resource for our Lenten season, with daily reflections based on the Mass readings, prayers, and various ideas to help us prepare ourselves spiritually as we journey through this penitential season. Only £1 each.

**St Columba’s Mothers and Toddlers Group:** Mondays at 9.30am-11.30am, in the Meeting Room. We are always looking to attract new babies and toddlers, plus parents and grandparents. Why not come along and join in the fun?!

**Cleaning Team:** Tuesday 12th February: Mary and Karen. Can you help? We are always looking for volunteers – only one hour a month! See Don for details.

**“90 Club”: OUR NEXT DRAW IS ON SUNDAY, 25 FEBRUARY.** You too could be a winner if you have a number! Only £2 a month. See Don for details.

**Next Prize Bingo: Friday 23 February – ‘eyes down’ at 7.00pm.** Family fun - all welcome! Thanks very much to everyone for handing in items to use as prizes; without your help, we would not have the success we enjoy. Anyone passing the church at 9.15pm might like to come in and give a hand to re-arrange the furniture when Bingo is finished! Thank you!

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Audrey O’Connell + Rose Corbett + Amelia & John Drew + Murray Mackay + Peter Simpson + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean +

**Anniversaries:** + Kath and Howard Nicolls + Mary Sharky + Chris Waters + Colin Buckley + Darren Burgess + Garry Tindell + Tommy McNaughton + Chris Smyth + Magda Utton + Anne-Marie Grout +