



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

11 MARCH 2018:
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

Mass Readings

1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16; 19-23
 Responsorial Psalm: Ps 136 (137): 1-6
 2nd Reading: Ephesians 2: 4-10
 Gospel: John 3: 14-21

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 11 March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY) Second Collection: SCIAF	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 13 March	Tuesday of Week 4 in Lent Mass Offering: Donor's Intentions	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 14 March	Wednesday of Week 4 in Lent Mass Offering: Donor's Intentions	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 15 March	Thursday of Week 4 in Lent Mass Offering: Donor's Intentions	Sacrament of Reconciliation * Stations of the Cross * Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 18 March	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Living in the Light

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God's covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today's First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God's final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David (see 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89:3).

His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today's Psalm.

But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple (see Isaiah 44:28–45:1,4).

God is rich in mercy, as today's Second Reading teaches. He promised that David's kingdom would last forever, that David's son would be His Son and rule all nations (see 2 Samuel 7:14–15; Psalm 2:7–9). In Jesus, God keeps that promise (see Revelation 22:16).

Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation (see Wisdom 16:6–7; Numbers 21:9). Now Jesus

is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to himself (see John 12:32).

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father's love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God's handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth.

Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One (see John 19:37), and rededicate ourselves to living the “good works” that God has prepared us for. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

The *Cross of Christ* is the supreme proof of the mercy and love that God has for us: Jesus loved us “to the end” (Jn 13:1), meaning not only to the last instant of his earthly life, but to the farthest limit of love. (Angelus Address, 15 March 2015)

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.** For enquiries and further information, please contact PJ in the St Mary’s Office, on 01463 233519.

Lent Station Masses 2018 – Fridays at 7.00pm:

16 March: Christ the King, Brora * (coach)

23 March: St Joachim’s, Wick (coach)

* Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

Coaches are available to Aviemore (£7), Brora (£8), and Wick (£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.

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

PARISH NEWS

LAETARE SUNDAY – The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday. It takes its name from the Latin word that begins the entrance antiphon for the Mass: “Rejoice, Jerusalem ... Be joyful, all who were in mourning!” (Isaiah chapter 66). *Laetare* means *rejoice*, and this Sunday is marked by a relaxation of the penitential character of the Lenten season. On this Sunday, we look with expectation to the great Solemnity of Easter for which we have been preparing ourselves as a Church during the Lenten season. By its anticipation of the joy of Easter, Laetare Sunday is meant to give us hope and encouragement as we slowly progress towards the Paschal Feast. On both Laetare Sunday and Gaudete Sunday (the Third Sunday of Advent), a priest may wear rose vestments. The colour rose is used as a sign of the joy which characterises these two Sundays. The use of rose vestments probably stems from an ancient papal tradition of blessing golden roses, which would be sent to Catholic heads of state in Europe on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. In addition to attending Sunday Mass, a family might choose to mark Laetare Sunday by anticipating the Easter feast; a Sunday brunch with roses on the table would be appropriate. A family might also wish, during this beginning period of spring, to plant a rose bush on this day. Finally, there was a medieval tradition of visiting one’s “mother church” (the church where one was baptised) on this day.

SCIAF WEE BOX APPEAL – This Lent you have an incredible opportunity to give a hand up to families living in poverty. Families like the Langs, from Cambodia, depend on fishing and farming to survive. They used to struggle to have enough food to eat because of poverty and criminal gangs fishing illegally in their local river. Now they can support themselves. By giving up a treat for the 40 days of Lent and placing the money you save in your WEE

BOX, you’ll help change the lives of families like the Langs. The UK government is matching, pound-for-pound, all donations given to our WEE BOX appeal made before the 8th May. Every pound you save will go even further to helping our brothers and sisters around the world to survive and thrive. **WEE BOX PACKS are available in the entrance foyer – please take one home.**

Stations of the Cross: each Thursday evening during Lent 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. 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!

‘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.** Please spread the word – all welcome!

St Columba’s Baby and Toddler Group: Mondays at 9.30am-11.30am, in the Meeting Room. Come along and join the fun!

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 13th March – Mary and Karen. Can you help? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

“90 Club”: Next Draw on 25 March – Good luck to all who have a number. You too could be a winner: only £2 a month! See Don for details.

Prize Bingo: NEXT BINGO: FRIDAY, 23 MARCH – ‘eyes down’ at 7.00pm. A warm welcome awaits you. Items to give as prizes are always needed. Thank you for your support!

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 +

R.I.P.: + Alice MacKinnon + Iain MacIntyre + John McDonald

Anniversaries: + Maureen Harkins + Veronica Smith + Nancy Gallagher