



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**12 MARCH 2017:
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR A**

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4

Psalm: Ps 32 (33): 4-5, 18-20, 22

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 8-10

Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 12 March	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Second Collection: Heating	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 14 March	Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 15 March	Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 16 March	Thursday of the Second Week of Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation * Stations of the Cross * Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 19 March	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Second Collection: Heating	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available 30 minutes before EVERY Mass.

Second Sunday of Lent: Pope Francis – “Listen to Jesus!”

Today the Gospel presents the Transfiguration. It is the second stage of the Lenten journey: the first was the temptation in the desert, last Sunday; the second, the Transfiguration. Jesus “took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart” (Mt 17:1). The mountain in the Bible represents a place close to God and an intimate encounter with Him, a place of prayer where one stands in the presence of the Lord. There up on the mount, Jesus is revealed to the three disciples as transfigured, luminescent and most beautiful. And then Moses and Elijah appear and converse with Him. His face is so resplendent and his robes so white that Peter, awe-struck, wishes to stay there, as if to stop time. Suddenly from on high the voice of the Father resounds proclaiming Jesus to be his most beloved Son, saying “listen to him” (v. 5). This word is important! Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: “listen to Jesus, because he is my beloved Son”. This week let us keep this word in our minds and in our hearts: “listen to Jesus!”. And the Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. “Listen to Jesus!”. Don’t forget. This invitation from the Father is very important. We, the disciples of Jesus, are called to be people who listen to his voice and take his words seriously. To listen to Jesus, we must be close to him, to follow him, like the crowd in the Gospel who chase him through the streets of Palestine. Jesus did not have a teaching post or a fixed pulpit, he was an itinerant teacher, who proposed his teachings, teachings given to him by the Father, along the streets, covering

distances that were not always predictable or easy. Follow Jesus in order to listen to him. But also let us listen to Jesus in his written Word, in the Gospel. I pose a question to you: do you read a passage of the Gospel everyday? ... In any given moment of the day I take the Gospel from my pocket and I read something, a short passage. Jesus is there and he speaks to us in the Gospel! Ponder this. Let the Gospel be with us always, because it is the Word of Jesus in order for us to be able to listen to him.

From the event of the Transfiguration, I would like to take two significant elements that can be summed up in two words: *ascent* and *descent*. We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer. But we cannot stay there! Encounter with God in prayer inspires us anew to “descend the mountain” and return to the plain where we meet many brothers weighed down by fatigue, sickness, injustice, ignorance, poverty both material and spiritual. To these brothers in difficulty, we are called to bear the fruit of that experience with God, by sharing the grace we have received. And this is curious. When we hear the Word of Jesus, when we listen to the Word of Jesus and carry it in our heart, this Word grows. Do you know how it grows? By giving it to the other! The Word of Christ grows in us when we proclaim it, when we give it to others! And this is what Christian life is. It is a mission for the whole Church, for all the baptized, for us all: listen to Jesus and offer him to others. Do not forget: this week listen to Jesus!

(Angelus Address, St Peter’s Square, 16 March 2014)

GENERAL NEWS

Saturday 18 March: Monthly Market in Balloch Village Hall – various stalls from 10am until 1.30pm. Free entry.

Justice and Peace Group: “Rediscovering Mercy”: Members of the Justice and Peace group will be studying the SCIAF-sponsored course entitled “Rediscovering Mercy” during Lent. This is a four-week course reflecting Catholic Social Teaching, and the difference it can make in our lives. The sessions will be held on Tuesdays in **March (14, 21, 28) in the Olive Grove Cafe from 7.30pm–9.00pm**. All welcome. If you have any questions please contact Jill Kent at jillkent@me.com.

Lent Station Masses 2017 (Fridays, at 7.00pm)
17 March Our Lady & St Bean, Marydale
24 March St Vincent’s, Tain (with Bishop Hugh)
31 March St Columba’s, Culloden
7 April St Anne’s, Thurso

Bishop Hugh will dedicate the new outdoor altar at Stratherrick, at 12 noon on Saturday 25 March.

DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS: Thursday 6 April at 6.30pm, at St Mary’s Inverness. Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

PARISH NEWS

CATHOLICISM – Wednesday 15 March 2017, from 7.00pm – “A Body Both Suffering And Glorious: The Mystical Union of Christ and The Church”: Clearly answering the question, “What is the Church?” Bishop Barron presents the reality of the Church as “one, holy, catholic and apostolic.” The Body of Christ can be seen on earth from the Church’s centre in Rome to the cities of New York, Sao Paulo, Manila, Namugongo and Uganda, while still escaping total understanding as the mystical union between Christ and his Church. Bishop Barron also explores the Catholic conviction that the life and presence of Christ continues to embrace humanity in all its joys and sorrows through the presence of the Church.

STATION MASS AT ST COLUMBA’S – Friday 31 March: this year, we will be hosting one of the Lenten Station Masses here at St Columba’s. As hosts, it is our responsibility to welcome parishioners from throughout the Deanery, to offer them a truly uplifting liturgy, and to make sure that they are provided with refreshments after our celebration of Mass. In order to do this, we need assistance in the following areas: setting up and clearing away; catering (serving teas, coffees, hot soup); providing refreshments (soups, sandwiches, savouries..). **Please do consider volunteering to help: there is a sign-up**

sheet in the entrance foyer. Help us to make this a truly special evening in the parish!

“Behold the Lamb of God: Reflections for Holy Week”: Join us for a Day of Recollection at St Columba’s, **on Saturday 8 April, from 10.30am onwards.** See the event posters for the full programme. The ideal preparation for Holy Week!

Sainsbury’s Active Kids Schools Vouchers: St Joseph’s Primary School are collecting vouchers to purchase sports equipment for the children. If you, or someone you know, shops at Sainsbury’s – either in store or online – they will receive tokens towards the Active Kids Scheme. A collection box will be available in the entrance foyer of the church in the next few weeks. Vouchers are available from Sainsbury’s until 2 May. Thank you for your support.

Weekly Offertory Envelopes: the envelopes for the new financial year (April onwards) are now available in the entrance foyer.

Parish Pilgrimages led by Fr Domenico:

Rome, October 2017: THIS IS NOW FULL!

Holy Land, November 2018: This pilgrimage will mark the 10th Anniversary of the dedication of our church. **LAST FEW PLACES LEFT! IF INTERESTED, INFORM FR DOMENICO BY TUES 14 MARCH AT THE LATEST!**

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 14 March at 4.30pm – Margaret and Don. If you would like to help us clean our church, just come along; the more volunteers, the better (it takes approx an hour)! Any help gratefully appreciated.

“90 Club” – Next draw 26 March. New members are welcome to join in; only £2 per month! 3 prizes to be won. Please ask Don for details.

Prize Bingo – Eyed down Friday 24 March, at 7.00pm (note change of date). A family fun night, with great company! Come and join us! All monies go towards our Building Fund. Items to give as prizes are always needed (toiletries, chocolates, wine/spirits, etc). Many thanks for your continued support – it is greatly appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black + Audrey O’Connell + Amelia and John Drew + Leslie Murray + Frances Boyle + Ewen Macdonald Snr + Brian Murray + Lachlan MacNeil + Louisa and Suzanne Williams + Cath Maclean + Eilidh McPherson + Morag Macintyre

R.I.P.: Jane Green + Nancy McRae + Morag Nicholson + Jacquie Condon

Anniversaries: Maureen Harkins + Mary Armstrong + Veronica Smith + Sheena Urquhart