



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

14TH FEBRUARY 2016
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalm: Ps 90:1-2. 10-15
2nd Reading: Romans 10:8-13
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

| Date | Details | Service | Time |
|---------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| Sunday 14 February | First Sunday of Lent (Year C) (Second Collection: Building Fund) | Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass | 09.00 09.30 |
| Tuesday 16 February | Tuesday of the First Week of Lent | Mass | 19.30 |
| Wednesday 17 February | Wednesday of the First Week of Lent | Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | 11.00 11.30 |
| Thursday 18 February | Thursday of the First Week of Lent | * Stations of the Cross * * Service of Word and Communion * | 19.00 19.30 |
| Friday 19 February | Friday of the First Week of Lent | ~ NO MASS ~ | - |
| Sunday 21 February | Second Sunday of Lent (Year C) (Second Collection: Building Fund) | Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass | 09.00 09.30 |

Pope Francis' Angelus Address on the First Sunday of Lent (9 March 2014)

Each year, the Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent sets before us the narrative of the temptation of Jesus, when the Holy Spirit, having descended upon him after his Baptism in the Jordan, prompts him to confront Satan openly in the desert for forty days, before beginning his public ministry.

The tempter seeks to divert Jesus from the Father's plan, that is, from the way of sacrifice, of the love that offers itself in expiation, to make him take an easier path, one of success and power. The duel between Jesus and Satan takes place through strong quotations from Sacred Scripture. The devil, in fact, to divert Jesus from the way of the cross, sets before him false messianic hopes: economic well-being, indicated by the ability to turn stones into bread; a dramatic and miraculous style, with the idea of throwing himself down from the highest point of the Temple in Jerusalem and being saved by angels; and lastly, a shortcut to power and dominion, in exchange for an act of adoration to Satan. These are the three groups of temptations: and we, too, know them well!

Jesus decisively rejects all these temptations and reiterates his firm resolve to follow the path set by the Father, without any kind of compromise with sin or worldly logic. Note well how Jesus responds. He does not dialogue with Satan, as Eve had done in the earthly paradise. Jesus is well aware that there can be no dialogue with Satan, for he is cunning. That is why Jesus, instead of engaging in dialogue as Eve had, chooses to take refuge in the Word of God and responds with the power of this Word. Let us remember this: at the moment of temptation, of our temptations, there is no

arguing with Satan, our defence must always be the Word of God! And this will save us. In his replies to Satan, the Lord, using the Word of God, reminds us above all that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4; cf. Dt 8:3); and this gives us the strength, sustains us in the struggle against a worldly mind-set that would lower man to the level of his primitive needs, causing him to lose hunger for what is true, good and beautiful, the hunger for God and for his love. Furthermore, he recalls that "it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God'" (v. 7), for the way of faith passes also through darkness and doubt, and is nourished by patience and persevering expectation. Lastly, Jesus recalls that "it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only you shall serve'" (v. 10); i.e., we must rid ourselves of idols, of vain things, and build our lives on what is essential.

Jesus' words will then be borne out in his actions. His absolute fidelity to the Father's plan of love will lead him after about three years to the final reckoning with the "prince of this world" (Jn 16:11), at the hour of his Passion and Cross, and Jesus will have his final victory, the victory of love!

Dear brothers and sisters, the time of Lent is a propitious occasion for us all to make a journey of conversion, by sincerely allowing ourselves to be confronted with this passage of the Gospel. Let us renew the promises of our Baptism: let us renounce Satan and all his works and seductions — for he is a seducer — in order to follow the path of God and arrive at Easter in the joy of the Spirit (cf. Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A).

GENERAL NEWS

St Mary's Lenten Catechesis (Talk and Discussion)

- Tuesday 23 February: "*Lumen Gentium* for the Year of Mercy" – Mgr Basil Loftus.
- Thursday 3 March: "*Laudato Si'* of Pope Francis and the Year of Mercy" – Alistair Dutton, SCIAF
- Tuesday 8 March: "Oriental Religious Interface: Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Islam" – Fr Zeljko Pasa
- Tuesday 15 March: "*The Imitation of Christ: The Royal Road for Holy Week*" – Fr James Bell

All talks take place in the Marian Room, at 7.00pm.

HCPT Indian Restaurant Buffet Night: Wednesday 2 March from 7.00 pm onwards, in the Cinnamon Restaurant, Milburn Road, Inverness. Indian Buffet Night with Silent Auction, in aid of HCPT Group 29. Very popular – limited tickets available. £20 each. To book, please contact Iona Mackay on 07851 420948.

PARISH NEWS

Happy St Valentine's Day! Wishing you all a peaceful day with your loved ones. May the blessing of St Valentine lead us into a deeper sense of devotion for Jesus, who gave his life for our salvation. No greater love is possible.

Parish Register Forms: have you filled in yours?! In order to update our Parish records, could you please fill in one of the Parish Register Forms, which you will find on the table in the entrance foyer, and pop the completed form into the bag beside them. You will see on the reverse that there is the opportunity for you to express your interest(s) in any of the activities and ministries of the Parish. If you would like to become more involved in the Parish, please do indicate this on the form, and/or speak to Fr Domenico. Your assistance in building up our Parish is gratefully appreciated!

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

Lenten Station Masses: all Station Masses take place on **Fridays during Lent, beginning at 7.00pm**. A large 24-seater minibus has been pre-booked to allow as many parishioners as possible to attend these pilgrimages to our Lenten Station Masses. **Please reserve your seat on the minibus NOW – they are going quickly!** Subsidised costs per person are dependent on filling all 24 seats. Please book your seat(s) by phoning PJ in the office at St Mary's Presbytery, Huntly Street, on (01463) 233519, or filling in the travel list at the back of St Mary's Church. The travel cost is listed after each destination:

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|-------------|---|
| 19 February | St Mary's, Beaulieu (£5 per person) |
| 26 February | St Joseph's, Invergordon (£7 per person) |
| 4 March | Christ the King, Brora (£12 per person) |
| 11 March | St Martin's, Ullapool (£12 per person) ** |
| 18 March | St Mary's, Nairn (£6 per person) ** |

** Please note that the Principal Celebrant at the Ullapool and Nairn Station Masses is Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

Parish Fundraising and Social Events: would you like to see, or to be involved in, more social events at St

Columba's? Come along to our **informal gathering in the Meeting Room on Tuesday 16 February, after the 7.30pm Mass**, and get involved in the life of your Parish!

Confirmation Class: our dates for this month are as follows: **Thursday 18 and 25th February, at 6.15 pm**. We will be learning about the Creed and talking about our faith.

'Faith in Film' Evening: February's film is entitled *I Confess* (1953), starring Montgomery Clift, Anne Baxter, and Karl Malden. It will be screened on **Wednesday 17 February, from 7.00pm onwards**. Our film, designed to tie in with our forthcoming Day of Discussion and Reflection on the Sacrament of Confession, is directed by the legendary Alfred Hitchcock (himself a Catholic). The story is a classic suspense, focusing on a Priest who learns of a murder whilst hearing a penitent's Confession. Bound by the Sacramental Seal, the priest is unable to do or say anything, not even when suspicion begins to fall on him. Cert. PG (92 minutes).

Saturday 20 February – St Vincent de Paul Society: Day of Reflection at St Columba's. Fr Domenico will lead a Day of Reflection for members of the SVDP, which is open to ANYONE. The theme of the Day will be: **"Living the Message of Mercy: Putting our Faith into Practice"**. The Day begins at 10.00am, and ends at 5.00pm. Bring a packed lunch to share with others. **ALL WELCOME!! SPREAD THE WORD!!**

Saturday 27 February – "The Sacrament of Confession: Reconciling Ourselves with Our Merciful Father". This will be a day of discussion and reflection on the Church's 'neglected sacrament', as part of our wider programme of parish initiatives for the Year of Mercy. We will look at its history and development, and discuss some of the reasons for its lack of popularity nowadays. There will also be a presentation on "Confession 'do's and 'don'ts", and a Q&A session. **The day will begin with Mass at 10.00am in St Columba's.** There will be a pot-luck lunch – please feel free to bring along something to share with others. The day will conclude around 3.00pm. If you would like to attend, could you inform Fr Domenico by e-mail, at stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com.

Church cleaning: Tuesday 16th February, 4.30pm – Margaret and Rhona.

"90 Club": Next draw takes place on Sunday 28 February. You could be a winner if you get one of the few numbers left – only £2.00 monthly; please ask Don.

Prize Bingo: our next Bingo will take place on **FRIDAY, 26 FEBRUARY**. Eyes down 7.00pm. A warm welcome awaits you all!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Audrey O'Connell + Anna Black + Leslie Murray + Laura Johnston + Amelia Drew + Cathy Thomson +

Anniversaries: + Anne-Marie Grout + Jack Hasterick + Kath and Howard Nicholls + Tommy McLaughton + Chris Smyth + Magda Utton + Mary and Joe Sharkey + Chris Waters + Colin Buckley + Garry Tindall +