



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**15 MARCH 2020:**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**(Year A (II); Psalter: Week 3)**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7

Psalm: Ps 94 (95): 1-2, 6-9

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4: 5-42

Date	Details	Service	Time
<b>Sunday 15 March</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 162)</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 17 March	St. Patrick, Bishop & Missionary – Feast Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 18 March	Wednesday of Week 3 in Lent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention  <b>Lenten Reflections: Mysteries of the Passion</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>'The Crowning with Thorns'</b>	10.00 am 11.00 am 11.30 am <b>7.00 pm</b>
<b>Thursday 19 March</b>	<b>St. Joseph – Solemnity</b> Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation <b>* Stations of the Cross *</b> Mass	6.30 pm <b>7.00 pm</b> 7.30 pm
Friday 20 March	Friday of Week 3 in Lent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention  <b>*** LENT STATION MASS: ST. COLUMBA'S ***</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Benediction <b>Station Mass</b>	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon <b>7.00 pm</b>
Saturday 21 March	Saturday of Week 3 in Lent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation <b>** Rosary **</b> Mass	10.15 am 10.40 am 11.00 am
<b>Sunday 22 March</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 169)</b> <b>Second Collection: SCIAF</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

## Third Sunday of Lent: Striking the Rock

The Israelites' hearts were hardened by their hardships in the desert. Though they have seen His mighty deeds, in their thirst they grumble and put God to the test in today's First Reading—a crisis point recalled also in today's Psalm.

Jesus is thirsty, too, in today's Gospel. He thirsts for souls (see John 19:28). He longs to give the Samaritan woman the living waters that well up to eternal life. These waters couldn't be drawn from the well of Jacob, father of the Israelites and the Samaritans, but Jesus was something greater than Jacob (see Luke 11:31–32).

The Samaritans were Israelites who escaped exile when Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom eight centuries before Christ (see 2 Kings 17:6, 24–41). They were despised for intermarrying with non-Israelites and worshipping at Mount Gerazim, not Jerusalem. But Jesus tells the woman that the "hour" of true worship is coming, when all will worship God in Spirit and truth.

Jesus' "hour" is the "appointed time" that Paul speaks of in today's Second Reading. It is the hour when the Rock of our salvation was struck on the Cross. Struck by the soldier's lance, living waters flowed out from our Rock (see John 19:34–37). These waters are the Holy Spirit (see John 7:38–39), the gift of God (see Hebrews 6:4).

By the living waters the ancient enmities of Samaritans and Jews have been washed away, the dividing wall between Israel and the nations is broken down (see Ephesians 2:12–14, 18). Since His hour, all may drink of the Spirit in Baptism (see 1 Corinthians 12:13).

In this Eucharist, the Lord now is in our midst—as He was at the Rock of Horeb and at the well of Jacob. In the "today" of our Liturgy, He calls us to believe: "I am He," come to pour out the love of God into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. How can we continue to worship as if we don't understand? How can our hearts remain hardened? (Scott Hahn)

## GENERAL NEWS

### **Lent Station Masses 2020 – Fridays at 7.00pm:**

#### **20 March: St. Columba's, Culloden**

27 March: Our Lady and St. Bean, Marydale \* # (5.45pm)

3 April: Christ the King, Brora # (5.15pm)

\* Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

# Bus departs St. Mary's Inverness (£7.50). Phone to book.

**CHRISM MASS: please note that the venue for this Mass has now been changed from St. Mary's Inverness to Aberdeen Cathedral, to take place on Thursday 2 April, beginning at 6.00pm.**

## PARISH NEWS

### **Today's Lenten Liturgy (CTS New Sunday Missal): Third Sunday of Lent, Year A (p. 162) –**

p. 521: Introductory Rites

p. 162: Readings and Proper Prayers

p. 541: Creed

p. 167: Preface: The Samaritan Woman

p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II

p. 631: Communion Rite

**“WELCOME!”** to Miss Catherine Browne, the Head Teacher of St. Joseph's RC Primary School, who is joining us for our liturgy today. Miss Browne will be delivering our First Reading and Responsorial Psalm, and she will be available to meet with parishioners after Mass, in our Meeting Room. Why not come along to meet her, and say “hello”?

**St. Columba's Station Mass, Friday 20 March at 7.00pm:** this Friday, we play host to parishioners from various parts of the Deanery, for our Lenten Station Mass here at St. Columba's. We are looking for volunteers: to help us set up for refreshments after the Mass; to assist with catering; and with tidying up afterwards. Can you help? There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please do offer your assistance if you can.

**Do you have a passion for Knitting or Sewing?** – A few children at St Joseph's have expressed an interest in learning how to knit or sew. Would you like to share your skills at a club with the children, possibly during lunchtime or after school at 3pm? For more information please call St Joseph's on 01463 231837.

**For your reassurance and comfort..** thanks to our dedicated team of cleaners, all of the door handles, the seat backs in the church, and – of course – the toilets are cleaned and disinfected weekly, along with all else. Our gratitude goes to our committed team for this and for keeping our lovely church clean, safe and warm.

**Next Week's Second Collection: SCIAF Appeal** – This year the SCIAF WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE Appeal has received UK Aid Match. This means that all public donations up until 20th May to the appeal will be doubled by the UK Government. Please give generously to the SCIAF collection next Sunday.

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

**Reflect with Bishop Robert Barron on the Stations of the Cross** – a beautiful video reflection is now available FREE here: <https://stations.wordonfire.org/stations-of-the-cross> - together with pdf text and mp3 audio versions. We pray the Stations of the Cross at St. Columba's each Thursday at 7pm.

**Defibrillator and Emergency Life Support Training** – the Training Day at St. Columba's will be **Saturday 21 March, from 10.00am-12 noon**. We have over 30 people signed up for the free course; if you cannot make this training event, please inform Fr. Domenico.

**‘The Mysteries of the Passion’** – a series of Lenten Reflections at St. Columba's, complete with readings from Holy Scripture and images from the Holy Land, offering a fresh perspective on the five Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. The Reflections take place on **Wednesdays at 7.00pm** throughout the Lenten season.

The programme continues as follows:

**18 March: The Crowning with Thorns**

**25 March: The Carrying of the Cross**

**1 April: The Crucifixion**

All welcome. Please spread the word!

**Highland Foodbank – March and April 2020:** Your donations help to provide emergency food and support to local people in crisis. During these months, we would be grateful for the following items: \* **Tins of Ham** \* **Weetabix/Corn Flakes (small)** \* **Tins of Corned Beef** \* **Tins of Potatoes** \* **Washing up liquid (small)** \*. Please leave these items in the plastic box at the front door of the church. Thank you!

**Baby and Toddlers' Group:** please note that there will be NO meeting tomorrow. Thank you.

**Cleaning Team** – Monday 16th March at 1.30pm: Margaret and Isobel. Would you like to help out too? Many hands make light work! See Don for details.

**90 Club: Next Draw on Sunday 29th March** –there are still a few numbers available if you would like a number speak to Don. Only £2 monthly.

**PRIZE BINGO CANCELLED:** Due to the present circumstances, the Bingo evening due to take place on **Friday 27 March has been cancelled**. Our apologies to our patrons, but we are sure that you will understand the need for precautionary measures at the current time. Many thanks for your support and patience. Thanks also for your help with the lovely items handed in, to give as prizes; they are greatly appreciated!

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Angus Johnson + Michael Good + Laura Johnstone + Norman Wood + Katie Mary Fraser + Margaret and Stuart MacLennan + Jeanette Catto + John Macdonald + Evelyn MacGregor + Mary Ritchie + Denise Maclean + David Munro + Rena Herbison +

**R.I.P:** + Jean Bewley + Mgr. Thomas Wynne + John Smith + Morag MacInnes + Maria MacLeod +

**Anniversaries:** + Maureen Harkins + Charles Falconer + Mary Armstrong + Veronica Smith + Leslie Murray +