



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**18 MARCH 2018:**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50 (51): 3-4, 12-15

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 5: 7-9

Gospel: John 12: 20-33

| Date                   | Details                                                                           | Service                                                                    | Time                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 18 March</b> | <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b><br><b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>            | <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b><br><b>Mass</b>                          | <b>9.00 am</b><br><b>9.30 am</b> |
| Tuesday 20 March       | Tuesday of Week 4 in Lent<br>Mass Offering: Jenner Martin (Health and Intentions) | Sacrament of Reconciliation<br>Evening Prayer<br>Mass                      | 6.30 pm<br>7.00 pm<br>7.30 pm    |
| Wednesday 21 March     | Wednesday of Week 4 in Lent<br>Mass Offering: Mary MacCormick RIP (Anniversary)   | Sacrament of Reconciliation<br>Mass<br>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | 10.30 am<br>11.00 am<br>11.30 am |
| Thursday 22 March      | <b>** NO MASS AT ST COLUMBA'S **</b>                                              | <b>CHRISM MASS, ST PETER'S BUCKIE, at 6.00 PM</b>                          | -                                |
| <b>Sunday 25 March</b> | <b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION</b><br><b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>      | <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b><br><b>Mass</b>                          | <b>9.00 am</b><br><b>9.30 am</b> |

## Fifth Sunday of Lent: "To See Jesus"

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, John the Evangelist draws our attention with a curious detail: some "Greeks", of the Jewish religion, who have come to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, turn to Philip and say to him: "We wish to see Jesus" (Jn 12:21). There are many people in the holy city, where Jesus has come for the last time, there are many people. There are the little ones and the simple ones, who have warmly welcomed the Prophet of Nazareth, recognizing Him as the Messenger of the Lord. There are the High Priests and the leaders of the people, who want to eliminate Him because they consider him a heretic and dangerous. There are also people, like those "Greeks", who are curious to see Him and to know more about his person and about the works He has performed, the last of which — the resurrection of Lazarus — has caused quite a stir.

"We wish to see Jesus": these words, like so many others in the Gospels, go beyond this particular episode and express something *universal*; they reveal *a desire that passes through the ages and cultures*, a desire present in the heart of so many people who have heard of Christ, but have not yet *encountered* him. "I wish to see Jesus", thus He feels the heart of these people.

Responding indirectly, in a prophetic way, to that request to be able to see Him, Jesus pronounces a prophecy that reveals his identity and shows the path to know Him truly: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (Jn 12:23). It is *the hour of the Cross*! It is the time for the defeat of Satan, prince of evil, and of the definitive triumph of the merciful love of God. Christ declares that He will be "lifted up from the earth" (v. 32), an expression with a twofold meaning: "lifted" because

He is crucified, and "lifted" because He is exalted by the Father in the Resurrection, to draw everyone to Him and to reconcile mankind with God and among themselves. The hour of the Cross, the darkest in history, is also the source of salvation for those who believe in Him.

Continuing in his prophecy of the imminent Passover, Jesus uses a simple and suggestive image, that of the "*grain of wheat*" that, once fallen into the earth, dies in order to bear fruit (cf. v. 24). In this image we find another aspect of the Cross of Christ: that of *fruitfulness*. The death of Jesus, in fact, is an inexhaustible source of new life, because it carries within itself the regenerative strength of God's love. Immersed in this love through Baptism, Christians can become "grains of wheat" and bear much fruit if they, like Jesus, "lose their life" out of love for God and brothers and sisters (cf. v. 25).

For this reason, to those who, today too, "wish to see Jesus", to those who are searching for the face of God; to those who received catechesis when they were little and then developed it no further and perhaps have lost their faith; to so many who have not yet encountered Jesus personally...; to all these people we can offer three things: *the Gospel, the Crucifix and the witness* of our faith, poor but sincere. The Gospel: there we can encounter Jesus, listen to Him, know Him. The Crucifix: the sign of the love of Jesus who gave Himself for us. And then a faith that is expressed in simple gestures of fraternal charity. But mainly in the coherence of life, between what we say and what we do. Coherence between our faith and our life, between our words and our actions: Gospel, Crucifix, Witness.

(Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 22 March 2015)

## GENERAL NEWS

**Lent Station Mass at St Joachim's, Wick:** Friday 23 March at 7.00pm. Main Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB. A Coach is available to Wick (£10). If you would like to reserve a seat, 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

### HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

Palm Sunday: 9.30am: Mass.

Tuesday of Holy Week

6.30pm: Sacrament of Confession

7.30pm: Mass

Wednesday of Holy Week

10.00am: Sacrament of Confession

11.00am: Mass

Holy Thursday

6.30pm: Sacrament of Confession

7.30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

3.00pm: Liturgy of the Passion

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil at 8.30pm

Easter Sunday: 9.30am Mass

**Assistance for Holy Week liturgies** – we are looking for people to assist us with our Holy Week liturgies; in particular, we need:

- **Readers**
- **Extraordinary Ministers**
- **Servers**
- **Volunteers for Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet**
- **Help with Easter Flowers**

Can you help? Please do come to the Sacristy and put your name down **in advance**, or speak to Fr Domenico and/or Helen.

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

**RETURN OF SCIAF WEE BOXES** – Please return these boxes to us from Easter Sunday onwards. 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 and fill it up!**

**'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:** Outing to 'soft play' at Brewers Fayre, Inshes Gate on Monday at 10am. Come along and join the fun!

**Cleaning Team:** Monday 19th March, 12 noon – Laura, Marie, and Don. Can you help? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

**'EASTER RAFFLE'** – Tickets on sale now! £1 for a strip of five, name/phone number on the back, please. The raffle will be drawn on Easter Sunday, 1st April.

**"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: THIS FRIDAY, 23 MARCH – 'eyes down' at 7.00pm.** Family fun for all! 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 + George McGee

**Anniversaries:** + Mary MacCormick + Kathleen Tierney + Edward Lafferty