



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

19TH JUNE 2016

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, C

~ CONFIRMATION MASS ~

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Zechariah 12: 10-11. 13: 1

Psalm: Ps 62: 2-6. 8-9

2nd Reading: Galatians 3: 26-29

Gospel: Luke 9: 18-24

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 19 June	TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR ~ CONFIRMATION MASS ~	MASS WITH BISHOP HUGH GILBERT	9.30am
Tuesday 21 June	Funeral Mass Memorial of St Aloysius Gonzaga	Funeral Mass of Thomas Wooldridge, RIP Evening Mass	12 noon 7.30pm
Wednesday 22 June	Wednesday in the Twelfth Week of the Year	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 23 June	Thursday in the Twelfth Week of the Year	Evening Mass	7.30pm
Sunday 26 June	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR ~ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS ~	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Twelfth Sunday of the Year / Confirmation Mass: The Children of the Promise

In this Sunday's readings, we hear the voice of the Prophet Zechariah as he delivers difficult oracles from God. The people have returned from exile. Now back in Jerusalem, they face the arduous work of rebuilding the Temple. Zechariah acknowledges their hardships and foresees more obstacles.

But their grief has a purpose. It is a remedy, a penance to heal them – "a fountain to purify from sin and uncleanness."

Thus purified, the people will be ready to receive the Messiah and usher in a new creation. God promises to "pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and petition." So that no one should mistake the identity of the Messiah when He comes, God says through Zechariah: "they shall look on him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son ... a first-born." That prophecy could be fulfilled in no other than Jesus, the Word made Flesh, the Only-Begotten Son of God, the Crucified.

The day of the Messiah indeed came, with an outpouring of the Spirit. Yet it was a saving event not only for Jerusalem, but for all people. Both Jews and Gentiles could become "children of God," in St. Paul's stunning phrase. Now, "There is neither Jew nor Greek ... slave nor free ... male and female ... if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise."

In light of these readings, Sunday's Gospel is poignant. Jesus asks his closest friends, "who do you say that I am?" Peter replies, "The Messiah of God." Jesus then reveals to them, as Zechariah had foretold, that the Messiah must be "pierced" and killed and mourned before the Spirit would come forth on Pentecost.

The day has indeed come. Yet still we long for its fullness, and so we pray to God in the Psalm: "for you I long! | For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts, | Like a land parched, lifeless, and without water." (Scott Hahn)

Pope Francis: Advice to the Newly-Confirmed

"Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide. Pay attention, my young friends: to go against the current; this is good for the heart, but we need courage to swim against the tide. Jesus gives us this courage! There are no difficulties, trials or misunderstandings to fear, provided we remain united to God as branches to the vine, provided we do not lose our friendship with him, provided we make ever more room for him in our lives. This is especially so whenever we feel poor, weak and sinful, because God grants strength to our weakness, riches to our poverty, conversion and forgiveness to our sinfulness. The Lord is so rich in mercy: every time, if we go to him, he forgives us. Let us trust in God's work! With him we can do great things; he will give us the joy of being his disciples, his witnesses. Commit yourselves to great ideals, to the most important things. We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals, my dear young people!"

(Homily at the Confirmation Mass, St Peter's Basilica, 28 April 2013)

GENERAL NEWS

Inverness Parishes Picnic – Postponed until September:
Please note that the planned picnic at Bellfield Park today, Sunday 19 June, has been postponed by the organisers until SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Pluscarden Abbey, 26 June 2016:
12 noon onwards: Refreshments available in the marquee.
1.00pm–3.00pm: Adoration (Lady Chapel).
1.00pm–3.00pm: Confessions (St. Benedict's Retreat).
3.30pm: Pilgrimage Mass & Procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady. Guest Preacher: Fr Ghassan Sahoui SJ.

2016 NEW DAWN YOUTH GATHERING, 4-8 JULY:
New Dawn in Scotland is hosting a youth event at Madras College, St Andrews, 4-8 July 2016. **The gathering is open to 11-17 year olds.** Craig Lodge community are running this year's programme. The Community of St Andrew Sisters along with several volunteers are organising the accommodation and food as well as taking part in the youth programme. The youth are staying at The Holy Trinity Church Hall, Queen's Terrace, St Andrews, KY16 9QF. **The cost for the 5 days is £50;** please bring a sleeping bag. **(please note that the Diocese of Aberdeen have made their own financial arrangements).** For further information please contact: the St Andrew Community: community@standrewx.org or New Dawn in Scotland. Office: Tel: 0131-447-6153 Mobile: 07931 504578. Email: arena@dhunter.uk.com. Website: www.newdawninScotland.com.

“Youth Rally for Jesus” – Stratherrick, 20 August 2016:
Jesus our Liberator, our Healer, our Friend, our Companion. A Day of Discovery, Adventure, and Devotion, at Stratherrick (IV2 6UL), from 10:00am to 5.00pm. **FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE.** Please book early! For more information, phone 01463 233519, or send an e-mail to: stmarysinverness@btinternet.com.

PARISH NEWS

Congratulations to our Newly Confirmed Youngsters!
Our prayers and best wishes go to Erin, Morven, Matt, Calum, and Louis on their special day. Be assured of our continuing support for you all!

“Thank you”, Bishop Hugh! .. for taking time out of your busy schedule to come to St Columba's and confirm our five young parishioners. You are always welcome here, and your presence is much appreciated!

Parish First Holy Communions – next Sunday, 26 June!
Seven of our children will make their First Holy Communion next Sunday: Anna, Alison, Jessica, Fionnula, Sophie-Maree, Cameron, and Jamie. Please support them by your prayers and your presence.
Holy Communion class: Thursday 23 June, 5.30pm–6.00pm.

Amoris Laetitia Reading Group: various people have expressed interest in meeting together for an informal, relaxed reading group, to explore some of the ideas in Pope Francis' new teaching document, *Amoris Laetitia* (the Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family). The gatherings will be **on Wednesdays, 7.00pm–8.30pm.** Our programme is as follows:

Wednesday 6 July – Introduction (‘The Joy of Love’); Chapter 1 (Scriptural Reflection); Chapter 9 (The Spirituality of Marriage and the Family)

NB. Friday 15 July – Chapter 2 (The Experiences and Challenges of Families); Chapter 3 (The Vocation of the Family)

Wednesday 20 July – Chapter 4 (Love in Marriage)

Wednesday 27 July – Chapter 5 (Welcoming Children); Chapter 7 (Educating Children)

Wednesday 3 August – Chapter 6 (Pastoral Perspectives on Marriage and Divorce)

Wednesday 10 August – Chapter 8 (Accompanying, Discerning and Integrating Weakness in Families)

There are copies of *Amoris Laetitia* for sale at St Ninian's, or via the Catholic Truth Society website. Alternatively, you can download a free pdf copy from the Vatican website. If you are interested in taking part in this reading group, contact Fr Domenico at: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com.

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST: Parish Day Trip to Orkney!

NB. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

A Grand Day Out! **The coach departs from Inverness Bus Station at 7.15am, and returns at 9.00pm.** We will drive up to Caithness, board the 10.30am John O'Groats ferry, and cross to the islands. There then follows a **6-hour tour of Orkney.** Highlights include:

- Scapa Flow
- Churchill Barriers
- Italian Chapel (photo stop)
- Skara Brae stone-age village
- Standing Stones of Stenness
- Ring of Brodgar
- Kirkwall

Prices – Adults: £ 72.00; Accompanied Children under 16: £ 36.00; Under 5s go free. All transport included.

Extra: entrance fee to Skara Brae – Historic Scotland site (Adult £7.10, Concession £5.70, Child £4.30).

Closing date: Sunday 3 July. There are a limited number of places. Please sign up on the sheet in the entrance foyer.

Church cleaning – Monday 20 June: Marie (Nairn) and Don. Additional help is always appreciated!

“90 Club”: DRAW NEXT WEEK, Sunday 26 June!
Good luck to all who have a number. There are a few still available if you would like to join; ask Don for information.

PRIZE BINGO: NEXT FRIDAY, 24 June, at 7.00pm.
Many thanks to all those who have handed in items as prizes. These are always gratefully accepted. Please note that Friday 24 June will be our last Prize Bingo night before the summer break; we return again in September, on the first Friday of the month.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray +

Anniversaries: + Margaret Smith +