



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**19 MARCH 2017:
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR A**

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7

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

2nd Reading: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4: 5-42

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 19 March	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Second Collection: Heating	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 21 March	Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 22 March	Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 23 March	Thursday of the Third Week of Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation * Stations of the Cross * Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 26 March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Second Collection: SCIAF	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

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

Third Sunday of Lent: Striking the Rock

The Israelites' hearts were hardened by their hardships in the desert. Though they saw 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)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"Lent [...] is the opportune time to look within ourselves, to understand our truest spiritual needs, and to ask the Lord's help in prayer. The example of the Samaritan woman invites us to exclaim: "Jesus, give me a drink that will quench my thirst forever." (Angelus, 23 March 2014)

GENERAL NEWS

Lent Station Masses 2017 (Fridays, at 7.00pm)

24 March St Vincent's, Tain (Bishop Hugh)

31 March St Columba's, Culloden

7 April St Anne's, Thurso

25 March: Mass and Dedication of the new outdoor altar at the shrine of Our Lady, at Stratherrick by Bishop Hugh. The programme is as follows:

10.30am: Arrive. Tea / Coffee.

11.00am: Rosary Walk to the Shrine.

1.00pm: Lunch.

2.30pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Reflection by Fr Tony Nye, SJ.
Opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession

4.00pm: Vespers and Benediction.

See the poster in the entrance foyer. All welcome!

Tuesday 28 March, 7.00pm: The Gabriel Society – Fr Tony Nye SJ will give a talk on **"Ignatian Perspectives: Prayers and People"**. At 9.00pm, there will be buns, tea, and other refreshments. Join us!

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

PARISH NEWS

DON'T FORGET TO "SPRING FORWARD"!

– Remember that clocks go forward 1 hour at 01:00 on Sunday morning, 26 March. We may get one hour's less sleep, but we can also enjoy more daylight in the evenings!

CATHOLICISM – NO MEETING THIS WEEK. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 29 March 2017, from 7.00pm** – "Word Made Flesh, True Bread Of Heaven: The Mystery of The Liturgy and The Eucharist".

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. We will need assistance in the following areas: welcome and hospitality; 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-4.00pm.** The programme is as follows:

10.30am: Welcome and Introduction

10.45am: First Presentation

11.30am: Quiet Time for Reflection

11.45am: Rosary and Angelus

12 noon: Holy Mass

12.45pm: 'Pot Luck Lunch' (bring something to share with others!)

2.00pm: Second Presentation

2.45pm: Quiet Time for Reflection

3.00pm: Penitential Service with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunities for Confession.

Benediction and the Divine Praises.

The ideal preparation for Holy Week! All welcome!

Weekly Offertory Envelopes: there are still some envelopes for the new financial year (April onwards) to be picked up in the entrance foyer. Make sure you collect yours now!

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 21 March at 4.30pm – Shona, Ji Ji, and Don. If you would like to help us clean our church, just come along; many hands make light work. It only takes an hour to make our church looking fresh and spring clean!

"90 Club" – DRAW NEXT WEEK, 26 MARCH! New members are welcome to join in; only £2 per month! 3 prizes to be won.

Prize Bingo – THIS FRIDAY, 24 MARCH! Eyes down at 7.00pm. 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. Many thanks for your continued support – it is greatly appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + 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 + Stephen Macintyre

Anniversaries: + Kathleen Tierney +