



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

1ST MAY 2016
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 15: 1-2. 22-29
Psalm: Ps 66: 2-3. 5-6. 8
2nd Reading: Apocalypse 21: 10-4. 22-23
Gospel: John 14: 23-29

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 1 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 3 May	Feast of St Philip and St James	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 4 May	Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Eastertide	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 5 May	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION *** HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION ***	MASS	7.30pm
Friday 6 May	Friday of the Sixth Week of Eastertide	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	9.00am 9.30am
Sunday 8 May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Sixth Sunday of Easter: The Nature and Meaning of the Church

The first Church council, the Council of Jerusalem that we hear about in today's First Reading, decided the shape of the Church as we know it.

Some Jewish Christians had wanted Gentile converts to be circumcised and obey all the complex ritual and purity laws of the Jews.

The council called this a heresy, again showing us that the Church in the divine plan is meant to be a worldwide family of God, no longer a covenant with just one nation.

Today's Liturgy gives us a profound meditation on the nature and meaning of the Church.

The Church is One, as we see in the First Reading: "the Apostles [bishops] and presbyters [priests], in agreement with the whole Church [laity]."

The Church is Holy, taught and guided by the Spirit that Jesus promises the Apostles in the Gospel.

The Church is Catholic, or universal, making known God's ways of salvation to all peoples, ruling all in equity, as we sing in today's Psalm.

And the Church, as John sees in the Second Reading, is Apostolic - founded on the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

All these marks of the Church are underscored in the story of the council.

Notice that everybody, including Paul, looks to "Jerusalem [and] ...the Apostles" to decide the Church's true teaching. The Apostles, too, presume that Christian teachers need a "mandate from us."

And we see the Spirit guiding the Apostles in all truth. Notice how they describe their ruling: "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us."

Knowing these truths about the Church, our hearts should never be troubled. The Liturgy's message today is that the Church is the Lord's, watched over and guarded by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit sent by the Father in the name of the Son.

This should fill us with confidence, free us to worship with exultation, inspire us to rededicate our lives to His Name - to love Jesus in our keeping of His Word, to rejoice that He and the Father in the Spirit have made their dwelling with us. (Scott Hahn)

GENERAL NEWS

Inverness Justice and peace group: The next meeting of the group will take place **on 4 May, from 7.30pm-9.00pm**, at the Olive Grove cafe in the Crown area of Inverness. We will be following the SCIAF study material on Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato Si*. If you would like more information, please contact jillkent@me.com.

PARISH NEWS

"Faith in Film" Evening: Wednesday 18th May, beginning at 7.00pm. This month's film is **"The Mission"** (1986), by Roland Joffé, director of "The Killing Fields" and "There Be Dragons". The film, which stars Robert de Niro, Jeremy Irons, Liam Neeson, and Ray McAnally, is based on **the true story of the 18th-century Jesuit missions on the borders of Brazil and Paraguay**. Visually stunning, and with an unforgettable musical score by Ennio Morricone, this film is both memorable and thought-provoking. Certificate PG (125 minutes).

"The Spiritual Works of Mercy": our next Year of Mercy Evening of Reflection on the Spiritual Works of Mercy will take place **at St Columba's on Wednesday 25th May, beginning at 7.00pm**. The format will be as follows: a short talk, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, some quiet time, and concluding with Benediction. Come and join us!

Please continue to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood! We are blessed to have seven men who are studying to be Priests in our Diocese:

Deacon Peter Macdonald; Andrew Niski; Emmet O'Dowd; Rafal Sweda; Christopher Doig; Dominic Nwaigwe; Malachy Eze.

Please pray for these men, as they continue to respond with joy to the call of the Lord. Each of our seminarians should be supported and cherished, and we are lucky to have them; however, we would rejoice to have more! Please do consider offering a daily prayer for an increase in Priestly Vocations to our Diocese. Another way that you can help is to consider a financial contribution to our Diocesan Seminarians' Bursary Fund. **The annual cost to the Diocese of training each Seminarian is around £25,000.** This covers their university tuition costs, their accommodation, and their food, books, and travel costs. If you would like to contribute to this, please speak to Fr Domenico, or consult our Bursary Fund Appeal leaflets in the entrance foyer.

Sainsburys "Active Kids" Vouchers: St Josephs' Primary School is collecting Active Kids vouchers to help them to purchase sports and cooking equipment. If you shop at Sainsburys, please pick up these vouchers, and drop them in to our box in the foyer, **by 6 May at the latest**. Thank you!

**** AMORIS LAETITIA (THE JOY OF LOVE) ****

Pope Francis' new document, on Love in the Family, brings together the results of the two Synods on the Family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015. This teaching document, known as a Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, is striking both in terms of its length and its detail (some 264 pages, with over 325 paragraphs arranged in 9 chapters).

It can be read on the St Columba's website, together with a summary of the document and other relevant articles. Please do check it out!

Church cleaning: Margaret and Marie (Nairn) 12.30pm Wednesday 4th May.

"90 Club" – April Winners: no.63 Malcolm; no.2 Ewen; no.49 Magda. Well Done! You could be our next winner, numbers are available at £2 monthly ask Don for details. Next Draw: Sunday 29th May.

PRIZE BINGO: Next eyes down Friday 27 May, at 7.00pm. Items to give as prizes are always required. Thank to everyone for the wonderful items we are given; it makes our fund raiser so successful. Those who come to play always comment on the lovely things that they win. **HELP ALWAYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED TO SET UP AND TIDY AWAY.** Thank you for your support.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Cathy Thomson + Leslie Murray + Rebecca Angus +

GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

The Secular Franciscan Order meets at 2.00pm on the Second Saturday of each month at St Columba's, Culloden. Contact Helen MacGilp (01463 792149). **Visit www.ofsgb.org.uk.**

Prayer and Praise Group every Thursday in the Lady Chapel at St Columba's, after the 7.30pm Mass. Call Brian (01463 790255) for details.

Inverness Catenian Circle meet on the Second Monday of every month, at 7.30pm. Next meeting: Monday 9 May, followed by dinner at the Craigmonie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045). Visit **www.catenians.co.uk**.

The Knights of St Columba meets on the first Monday of every month in the Marian Room at St. Mary's, at 7.30 pm. Next meeting: Monday 2 May. For further information, please contact Neil Munro (01463 232095). Visit **www.ksc.org.uk**.

The Parents & Toddlers Group meets on Wednesdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm in the Marian Room (St Mary's).

The Cenacolo Prayer Group meets every Monday after the 6:00 pm Mass in St. Mary's. All welcome.

St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) meets every fortnight, on Sundays, in the Marian Room at St Mary's, at 10.00 am. **Next meeting: Sunday 1 May.** Requests for assistance and support can be made by contacting any SVP member or by dropping a note in a SVP collection box. Visit **www.svp.org.uk**.