



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

20 MARCH 2022:
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
(Year C (II); Psalter: Week 3)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15
 Resp. Psalm: 102 (103): 1-4, 6-8, 11
 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12
 Gospel: Luke 13 :1-9

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 20 March	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 216 – Year C)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass Holy Mass	9.30 am 11.00 am
Monday 21 March	Monday of Week 3 in Lent	NO LITURGIES	---
Tuesday 22 March	Tuesday of Week 3 in Lent	NO LITURGIES	---
Wednesday 23 March	Wednesday of Week 3 in Lent	NO LITURGIES	---
Thursday 24 March	Thursday of Week 3 in Lent	Stations of the Cross Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 25 March	SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION	Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Saturday 26 March	Station Mass at St. Mary's, Inverness Saturday of Week 3 in Lent	Station Mass Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	7.00 pm 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 27 March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY) (p. 221 – Year C)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass Holy Mass	9.30 am 11.00 am

Third Sunday of Lent: Fruits of the Fig

In the Church, we are made children of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God who makes known His name and His ways to Moses in today's First Reading.

Mindful of His covenant with Abraham (see Exodus 2:24), God came down to rescue His people from the slave drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant (see Luke 1:54–55, 72–73), He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction, as today's Psalm tells us.

Paul says in today's Second Reading that God's saving deeds in the Exodus were written down for the Church, intended as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink. Yet the events of the Exodus were also given as a "warning"—that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation.

At any moment, Jesus warns in today's Gospel, we could perish, not as God's punishment for being "greater sinners"

but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits. Jesus calls us today to "repentance"—not a one-time change of heart, but an ongoing, daily transformation of our lives. We're called to live the life we sing about in today's Psalm, blessing His holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy.

The fig tree in His parable is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (see Jeremiah 8:3; 24:1–10). As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of its repentance (see Luke 3:8).

Lent should be for us like the season of reprieve given to the fig tree, a grace period in which we let "the gardener," Christ, cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity. (Scott Hahn)

NEWS

TODAY'S LITURGY (CTS New Sunday Missal): Third Sunday of Lent, Year C (p. 216)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 216: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 541: The Creed

p. 557: Preface II of Lent
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

SATURDAY 26 MARCH: FUNDRAISER CEILIDH – organised by, and on behalf of, 'Welcome In: A Local Response to the Refugee Crisis'. The Ceilidh will take place in St. Mary's Hall in Huntly Street. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets: £10 Adults; £2.50 Children. Bring your own drinks! Tickets available from the Sacristy after our Masses, or see Margaret MacLennan or Tricia Green.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION): available after every weekday Mass, and by appointment.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: each Thursday evening from 6.45pm during Lent.

SCIAF UKRAINE APPEAL: Heartfelt thanks to you all for a truly wonderful show of generosity and support! We raised almost £1,900 – at one Mass – for this appeal! Special thanks to the Catenian Association, which donated £500, as well as a generous donor, who also gave £500. May the Good Lord bless you all in abundance.

SCIAF WEE BOX APPEAL – Every Lent, thousands of Catholics in Scotland save money in their SCIAF WEE BOX to help give a hand up to people living in poverty overseas. By collecting your loose change, you can make a lasting difference to families in some of the world's poorest countries. **WEE BOX PACKS are available in the entrance foyer – please take one home.**

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES: Our **numbered** pink weekly offering envelopes are available on the table in the entrance foyer. If anyone needs their envelopes to be delivered or posted to them, could you let Fr. Domenico know asap? Thank you.

ST. JOSEPH ICON – BACK IN STOCK!! Our popular replica icons are back, and available in the Sacristy. First come first served! Our 'original' icon, in the Sanctuary, is being given a final coat of varnish to seal in its gold leaf and vivid colours. St. Joseph will return to us as soon as possible!

'LENT WITH LUKE' STUDY COURSE – this is a Scripture-based course, delivered in St. Columba's, organised over four evenings during the Lenten season. We will then examine the Gospel readings from St. Luke that feature throughout Lent and into Holy Week. The talks will take place on the following Wednesdays at 7.00pm. For the Zoom link, contact Fr. Domenico

30 March 'Profligates and Adulteresses' (4th and 5th Sundays in Lent)
6 April 'Donkeys, Lambs, and Empty Tombs' (Holy Week)

STATION MASSES: the dates and locations of the remaining Station Masses are listed below. Masses are on **Fridays at 7.00pm:**

25 March – St. Mary's, Inverness;
01 April – St. Vincent's, Tain;
08 April – St. Lawrence's, Dingwall

90 CLUB: DRAW NEXT WEEK! If you would like to take part in this parish fundraiser, please speak to Fr. Domenico. It only costs £2 a month. You too could be a winner!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Ian Macdonald, Kathleen Macpherson, Marian Ellis, Chris Hamilton, Rina Herbison, David Munro, Ellen Williams, Rose Corbett, Anne Hamill, Winnie Ferrari, Colin MacMillan, Angus Cumming

Anniversaries: Maureen Sherwen, Jim McGonigal, Maree MacGillivray, Mary Margaret Mongan, Karl Storey, Canon Ray Coyle, Michael Galleitch, Mary MacCormick, Margaret Wylie, Patrick Oates, Kathleen Tierney, Mary Bell, Deacon Jacques Cook