



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

20 MAY 2018:
SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST,
YEAR B

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 2: 1-11

Psalm: Ps 103 (104): 1, 24, 29-31, 34

Year B: 2nd Reading: Galatians 5: 16-25

Year B: Gospel: John 15: 26-27; 16: 12-15

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 20 May	SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 22 May	Memorial of St. Rita of Cascia Mass Intention: Frank Webb, R.I.P. (Anniversary)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 23 May	Wednesday of Week 7 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 24 May	Thursday of Week 7 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 27 May	SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Pentecost: Communicating the Merciful Love of the Lord

The feast of Pentecost makes us relive the Church's beginnings. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles tells that, 50 days after Easter, in the house where Jesus' disciples were, "suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house.... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (2:2-4). The disciples are completely transformed by this outpouring: fear is supplanted by courage, imperviousness gives way to the proclamation, and all doubt is driven away by faith filled with love. It is the "baptism" of the Church, which thus began her journey in history, guided by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This event, which changes the heart and life of the Apostles and the other disciples, is immediately felt outside the Upper Room. Indeed, that door kept locked for 50 days is finally thrust open and the first Christian Community, no longer closed in upon itself, begins speaking to crowds of different origins about the mighty works that God has done (cf. v. 11), that is to say, of the Resurrection of Jesus who was crucified. Each one present hears his own language being spoken by the disciples. The gift of the Holy Spirit restores the linguistic harmony that was lost in Babel, prefiguring the universal mission of the Apostles. The Church is not born isolated, she is born universal, one, and Catholic, with a precise identity, open to all, not closed, an identity which embraces the entire world, excluding no one. Mother Church closes her door in the face of no one, no one! Not even to the greatest sinner, to no one! This is through the power, through the grace of the Holy

Spirit. Mother Church opens, opens wide her doors to everyone because she is mother.

The Holy Spirit at Pentecost pours into the hearts of the disciples and begins a new season: the season of testimony and fraternity. It is a season which comes from above, comes from God, like the tongues of fire that rest on the head of each disciple. It was the flame of love which burns all harshness; it was the tongue of the Gospel which surpasses manmade borders and reaches the hearts of the multitudes, without distinction of language, race or nationality. As on that day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is poured out constantly even today on the Church and on each one of us so we may step outside of our mediocrity and our imperviousness and communicate to the entire world the merciful love of the Lord. Communicating the merciful love of the Lord: this is our mission! We too have been given the gift of the "tongue" of the Gospel and the "fire" of the Holy Spirit, so that while we proclaim Jesus risen, living and present in our midst, we may warm our heart and also the heart of the peoples drawing near to Him, the way, truth and life.

Let us entrust ourselves to the maternal intercession of Mary Most Holy, who was present as Mother in the midst of the disciples in the Upper Room: she is the mother of the Church, the mother of Jesus became mother of the Church. Let us entrust ourselves to Her that the Holy Spirit may descend in abundance upon the Church of our time, fill the hearts of all the faithful and kindle in them the fire of his love. (Pope Francis, *Regina Caeli* Address, 24 May 2015)

GENERAL NEWS

22nd-24th May 2018: Pluscarden Pentecost Lectures – *“You Have Come to Mount Sion”*: *The Christian Pilgrimage in the Letter to the Hebrews*. Four talks by Fr. Richard Ounsworth OP, which are as follows:

Tuesday 22nd May at 3.00pm: “Potato Stamps: Reading the Old Testament in the Light of Christ”.

Wednesday 23rd May at 10.30am: “Jesus is Joshua: What’s in a Name?”

Wednesday 23rd May at 3.00pm: “Passing Through the Veil: Christ the High Priest and the Day of Atonement

Thursday 24 May at 10.30am: “Robed in Flesh, Our Great High Priest”

There is no charge for these lectures, and all are welcome to attend. To register for the talks, make further enquiries, or book accommodation, contact Pluscarden Abbey, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8UA. To register your interest in this event, please e-mail: guestmaster@pluscardenabbey.org. See the poster on the front page of our parish website.

Wednesday 23 May: “The Claim: Archbishop Romero, his people, and Pope Francis” – SCIAF and the Justice & Peace Group will be hosting this film, which highlights the life of Blessed Oscar Romero, the El Salvadorian archbishop who will be canonised in October. Please join us in the **Marian Room, 32 Huntly Street (next to St Mary’s Inverness)**. Refreshments at 6.30pm, for a 7.00pm start.

PARISH NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Adam, Benjamin, Eilish, John Alan, Julia, Mia, Samuel, and Weronika, who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at St Columba’s on Thursday 17 May! Please do continue to keep them in your prayers as they prepare to make their First Holy Communion on 24 June. A wonderful day for the parish!

SATURDAY 9 JUNE 2018 AT 12 NOON: DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY MASS, ON THE FEAST OF ST COLUMBA! – A date for your diaries! Bishop Hugh has been invited to celebrate this Mass for us, together with the priests who were in attendance 10 years ago, at the Dedication of the Church. Come and join us for this important parish celebration. **We will need to think about: musicians; readers; servers; catering (buffet).** Please be prepared to offer your services to make this a truly memorable celebration! See the sign-up sheet in the foyer!

Pope Francis’ new document “Gaudete et Exsultate” (“Rejoice and be glad”) – the Apostolic Exhortation on Holiness – is on sale in the entrance foyer. It is very readable, and relevant to all of us; why not pick up a copy? If there is sufficient

interest, we will organise a reading group to discuss it together!

Can you help offer a lift? – a lady in Smithton requires a lift to Mass on Sundays; can you help? If so, please speak to Fr Domenico.

Calling all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – we have a number of housebound people in the Balloch/Culloden/Westhill/Cradlehall areas who would appreciate a visit, with the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Would you be willing to assist with this? Please speak to Fr Domenico.

Marital Accompaniment in the Diocese – Following the teaching of Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation entitled “Amoris Laetitia”, Bishop Hugh has invited certain priests to be available to help those in what the Church calls “irregular marital situations”. This is not a Relationship or Marriage Counselling Service, which already exists, but is for those who may wish to discuss their situation and are wondering how they might participate more fully in the life of the Church. Any individual or couple who would appreciate confidential conversations in this area are invited to approach the following priests:

Fr Mark Impson (Stonehaven):

mark.impson@rcda.scot

Fr Giles Conacher OSB (Pluscarden):

fr.giles-osb@rcda.scot

Fr Richard Reese (Tain): reeserj@googlemail.com

St Columba’s Baby and Toddler Group: This Monday, in the Meeting Room, at 9.30am-11.30am. Come along and join the fun!

Cleaning Team: Monday 21st May at 1.30pm – Isobel and Don. Would you like to help out? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

“90 Club”: DRAW TODAY AFTER MASS! There are still a few numbers available; only £2 monthly. All profits go to the Building Fund; ask Don.

PRIZE BINGO THIS FRIDAY, 25 MAY! – ‘eyes down’ at 7.00pm. Family fun! A warm welcome awaits you. Items to give as prizes are always needed. Thank you!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O’Connell + Amelia & John Drew + Peter Simpson + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean + Ellen Williams + Eva Zandre +

Anniversaries: + Frank Webb + Alastair McNeill + Canon Malaney + Ron Page + Isobel Hastie +