



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**21 JANUARY 2018:
THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24 (25): 4-6, 7b-9

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 21 January	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 23 January	Tuesday of Week 3 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Brian O'Connell RIP	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 24 January	Wednesday of Week 3 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Lachlan MacNeil RIP	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 25 January	Feast of the Conversion of St Paul Mass Intention: Sr Barbara Campbell RIP	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 28 January	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Third Sunday of the Year: Following Him

The calling of the brothers in today's Gospel evokes Elisha's commissioning by the prophet Elijah (see 1 Kings 19:19-21). As Elijah comes upon Elisha working on his family's farm, so Jesus sees the brothers working by the seaside. And as Elisha left his mother and father to follow Elijah, so the brothers leave their father to come after Jesus.

Jesus' promise – to make them "fishers of men" – evokes Israel's deepest hopes. The prophet Jeremiah announced a new exodus in which God would send "many fishermen" to restore the Israelites from exile, as once He brought them out of slavery in Egypt (see Jeremiah 16:14-16).

By Jesus' cross and resurrection, this new exodus has begun (see Luke 9:31). And the apostles are the first of a new people of God, the Church – a new family, based not on blood ties, but on belief in Jesus and a desire to do the Father's will (see John 1:12-13; Matthew 12:46-50).

From now on, even our most important worldly concerns – family relations, occupations, and possessions – must be judged in light of the gospel, Paul says in today's Second Reading.

The first word of Jesus' gospel – repent – means we must totally change our way of thinking and living, turning from evil, doing all for the love of God.

We should be consoled by Nineveh's repentance in today's First Reading. Even the wicked Nineveh could repent at Jonah's preaching. And in Jesus we have a greater than Jonah (see Matthew 12:41). We have God come as our Saviour, to show sinners the way, as we sing in today's Psalm. This should give us hope – that loved ones who remain far from God will find compassion if they turn to Him.

But we, too, must continue along the path of repentance – striving daily to pattern our lives after His. (Scott Hahn)



GENERAL NEWS

Friday 26 January: Youth Ministry Gathering – this day event, organised by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, will take place at Kilcoy Castle, Muir of Ord. It is intended for all those who are interested in starting a parish youth group. There will be invited guests and speakers, with talks and workshops. The programme is as follows:

10.00am: Holy Mass

10.30am: The Four Pillars of a Balanced, Relational Youth Ministry

12.30pm: Lunch

1.30pm: Workshops. Topics include:

‘Tough Topics in Youth Ministry’; ‘Designing a Successful Youth Night’; ‘Take-Away Ideas’; ‘Preparing Youth Masses’.

4.00pm: Depart.

See the poster on our noticeboard. For further details, please contact Sr. Anna Christi, at: ogilvie@rcda.scot.

PARISH NEWS

Holy Communion and Infection: given the prevalence of the most recent strain of flu (the H3N2 virus), Bishop Hugh has written a letter to Deans/Parish Priests, in which he suggests that it may be prudent to suspend the distribution of Holy Communion from the Chalice, and to dispense temporarily with the Sign of Peace. This suggestion is in line with similar initiatives that have been introduced in other dioceses (e.g., Down and Connor, in Ireland). Please bear in mind that.. 1) suspending the Sign of Peace does not imply in any way a diminishing of our solidarity with and support of one another as fellow worshippers at St Columba’s (!); and.. 2) distribution of Holy Communion in the form of the Consecrated Host alone in no way whatsoever diminishes either the sanctity or the efficacy of the Sacrament. The Church teaches that Jesus Christ is really, truly, and substantially present in each of the sacred species (the Consecrated Host and the Precious Blood). To quote the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Christ is present whole and entire in each of the species and whole and entire in each of their parts” (CCC 1377). Thus, distributing Holy Communion under one kind only does not deprive the faithful of the fullness of Christ’s presence in the Sacrament.

Faith in Film returns! - Wednesday 24 January, from 7.00pm: ‘Eye in the Sky’. Academy Award Winner Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman star in this nail-biting and thought-provoking film, which examines the moral and ethical implications of the war on terror, and, in particular, of drone strikes. There will be a short discussion after the film on the Catholic Church’s teaching on this topic, and on the theory of the ‘just war’. Certificate: 15 (c. 100 minutes).

‘From the Dark Wood to the Beatific Vision: Journeying Through Lent with Dante’. This Lent, at St Columba’s, Culloden, we’ll journey down through the ever-narrowing circles of Hell, up the seven-terraced Mount Purgatory, and finally ascend to Paradise! Our guide will be the 13th century Florentine poet Dante Alighieri, and we’ll look together at his literary

masterpiece, *The Divine Comedy*, using it as a means to examine the nature of sin, the healing love and mercy of God, and the redemption of humanity. **The weekly meetings will run throughout Lent, and begin on Wednesday 21 February at 7.00pm.** Please spread the word – all welcome!

Church Linens: we are looking for a volunteer/volunteers to help with the washing/ironing of the church linens (purificators, lavabo clothes, etc.). Can you help? Please speak to Helen in the Sacristy for further information.

Inverness Food Bank: During the month of January, we will provide a collection box for items to be donated to the Inverness Food Bank. Any unopened, non-perishable tins or packets of food can be placed in the box, and we will deliver them to the Food Bank. Thank you for your support.

St Columba’s Mothers and Toddlers Group: Mondays at 9.30am-11.30am, in the Meeting Room. We are always looking to attract new babies and toddlers, plus parents and grandparents. Why not come along and join in the fun?! See the poster on the notice-board for details.

Preparation for First Holy Communion in 2018: if your child is of approximately P3 age at Primary School, and you would like to discuss the possibility of him/her being prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion in Summer 2018, please see Fr Domenico.

Confirmation Classes in 2018: the dates for our next meeting is: **1 February**. This will take place on Thursday, and we will meet from 5.00pm–5.30pm. If you have any difficulty with the dates, please let Helen or Ewen know in advance. Many thanks.

Cleaning Team: Monday 29th January, 1pm/1.30pm: Laura and Don. Can you help? We are always looking for volunteers – only one hour a month! See Don for details.

“90 Club” – Next Draw on Sunday 28 January – please note that **many dues are now payable again**. Numbers are available if you would to take part – only £2 monthly. Please speak to Don.

Prize Bingo this week!! – our first fun-filled fundraiser evening of the new year will take place **this Friday, 26 January at 7.00pm**. All welcome! We are looking for extra volunteers to assist us with this successful event – can you help us? Items to give as prizes are always needed (we are particularly short of chocolates, and of wines and spirits; we’d also appreciate scented candles, toiletries, gift vouchers, tins of sweets/biscuits..). Thank you for your support of this important fund-raiser.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O’Connell + Rose Corbett + Amelia & John Drew + Murray Mackay + Peter Simpson + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean +

R.I.P: + Ewen Macdonald +

Anniversaries: + Sister Barbara Campbell, LSU + Theresa McKelvie +