



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**21 MAY 2017:  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

Psalm: Ps 65 (66): 1-7, 16, 20

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15-18

Gospel: John 14: 15-21

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 21 May	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Second Collection: Building Fund	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> Mass	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>
Tuesday 23 May	Tuesday in the Sixth Week of Easter	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 24 May	Wednesday in the Sixth Week of Easter	<b>* Service of the Word and Holy Communion *</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 25 May	<b>SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b> <b>** HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION **</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> Mass	<b>7.00 pm</b> <b>7.30 pm</b>
Sunday 28 May	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Second Collection: Building Fund	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> Mass	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

## Sixth Sunday of Easter: The Beauty and Action of the Holy Spirit

“Our readings today are helping us to renew our relationship with the Holy Spirit. It is a very important relationship in our Christian lives [...] Because we all need to really experience that the Holy Spirit is real, that he is true and he is powerful. He is not just an “idea” or a feeling. The Holy Spirit is a Person. The third person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit is God. That’s what Jesus is telling us today in our Gospel passage. He tells us that the Holy Spirit is our Advocate. The Spirit defends us and guides us and teaches us the true path for our lives.

Sometimes we need to reflect more on who we are — “*children of God, beloved sons and daughters of God*” — and on the value of our life and our Christian vocation. The Holy Spirit is the one who especially helps us to be aware of that. Our first reading gives us a picture of what the Sacrament of Confirmation looked like in the early Church. As we heard, the apostles prayed and laid hands on the people that St. Philip had baptised — and these people received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is still happening in our times. The Church is still giving people this gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments. So there is a perfect continuity between what happened in the early Church and what is happening today [...] and every time the Sacrament is celebrated. When we received the gift of

the Spirit, we received the gift of living with God — we have the living God dwelling with us and in us. Jesus says today: “*Because I live ... you will live ... I am in my Father and you are in me, and I in you.*” We have a beautiful communion with God, through the gifts of His Holy Spirit. The Spirit lives in our hearts. And through the Spirit, we live in the heart of God. St. Paul tells us in today’s second reading: “*Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.*” That means we have to make Jesus the centre of our lives. We have to keep his commandments. As Jesus says in today’s passage of the Gospel: “*If you love me, you will keep my commandments and whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me.*”

Living the commandments, we will find the joy and love that God wants for all of us — the joy of the people of Samaria as the Acts of the Apostles tells us in our first reading. So let us always remember that in our Christian journey, we are never alone. God is always with us — he is always helping us.

This week, as we prepare for the solemnities of the Ascension and Pentecost in the next two weeks, let us ask for the grace to renew our devotion to the Holy Spirit. Let us ask him to renew his gifts within us. Let us ask him to inflame our hearts with love and to fill us with joy and peace.” (Archbishop José Gomez)

## GENERAL NEWS

**Tuesday 4 June: Gabriel Society Meeting** in the Marian Room, at St Mary's, Inverness, at 7.30pm – **"St Paul: Model for Mission"**.

**Tuesday 6 – Thursday 8 June: 2017 Pluscarden Pentecost Lectures at Pluscarden Abbey:** *"Gnosis and the Theocrats from Mars"* – four talks by Dr Francesca Murphy (Notre Dame), as follows:

- Tuesday 6 June at 3.00 pm
- Wednesday 7 June at 10.30 am; then at 3.00 pm
- Thursday 8 June at 10.30 am

All talks will take place in the St Scholastica's Retreat House, just outside the Main Gate. See the poster on the notice board for full details.

**Saturday 24 June: Day of Renewal at Stratherrick – "In the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary"**. Come and join us from 10.00am onwards. The programme is as follows:

- ❖ Morning Prayer
- ❖ Recollection
- ❖ Rosary Procession
- ❖ Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Highlands
- ❖ Lunch with BBQ
- ❖ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with healing prayers and anointing with the balm of mercy
- ❖ Benediction
- ❖ Tea and depart.

All welcome! See you there!

## PARISH NEWS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHILDREN!** – to Ava, Caitlyn, Keira, Thomas, and Olivier, on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time on Thursday!! It was an extra celebration, since Thomas celebrated his 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the same day (!), whilst Ava celebrates her birthday this coming week! May the Holy Spirit fill all your hearts with joy, and may you all continue to grow in your love for Jesus and the Church!

**Saturday 3 June: "Come Down, O Love Divine – Living Our Faith with and in the Holy Spirit"**. A Day of Recollection and Renewal at St Columba's, from 10.00 am. See our poster!

**Sunday 4 June: Solemnity of Pentecost** – we are planning our Pentecost Mass, with contributions from different members of the Parish, in different languages! If you would like to get involved, please see Fr Domenico.

## Saturday 10 June: Parish Feast of St Columba!

We will celebrate our parish patronal feast on Saturday 10 June (as opposed to 9 June!), with a Mass at 12 noon, followed by a family barbecue/picnic on our patio area. Chefs wanted!! Please see the poster, and the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

**Wednesday 21 June onwards, at 7.00pm: Living Faith Scripture Course: "From Genesis to Jesus – Unlocking the Bible"** – What is the Bible, where does it come from and what is its purpose? How are Catholics supposed to read the Bible and what story does it have to tell? These are just a few of the questions we consider. We start with the creation story, and trace the history of salvation as it unfolds in the series of covenants that God makes with His chosen people - from Abraham and the twelve tribes of Israel to Moses and finally to King David. We see how this history reaches its climax and fulfilment in Jesus and the Church. This Summer course will give an overview of the Old and New Testaments, and will take the form of visual presentations, with discussion and Bible reading! Come and join us!

**Cleaning Team:** Tuesday 23 May – Marie Coyle and Don.

**"90 Club": DRAW TODAY AFTER MASS! – SUNDAY 28 MAY.** Good luck to all who have a number. Would you like to be a winner?! There are numbers still available; only £2 monthly. See Don for details.

**PRIZE BINGO THIS WEEK!! FRIDAY 26 MAY! Eyes down at 7.00pm.** A family fun night, with great company! Come and join us! All monies go towards our Building Fund. Our prize box is getting rather low – items to give as prizes are much needed (chocolates, wine, toiletries, stationery, or any item you would like to win)! Many thanks for your continued support of this great parish fundraiser!

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Frances Boyle + Amelia and John Drew + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Lachlan MacNeil + Louisa and Suzanne Williams + Rose Corbett + Anne Antoine +

**Recently Departed:** + Brian Murray +

**Anniversaries:** + Ronald Johnson + Sadie Macpherson + Canon Duncan Stone + Noel Hadnett +