



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

22 JANUARY 2017:
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

Psalm: Ps 26 (27): 1, 4, 13-14

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17

Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-23

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 22 January	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 24 January	Memorial of St Francis de Sales	Evening Prayer Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 25 January	FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 26 January	Memorial of St Timothy and St Titus	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 29 January 2017	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: "To the Ends of the Earth"

This Sunday's Gospel recounts the beginnings of the public life of Jesus in the cities and villages of Galilee. His mission does not begin in Jerusalem, the religious centre and also the social and political centre, but in an area on the outskirts, an area looked down upon by the most observant Jews because of the presence in that region of various foreign peoples; that is why the Prophet Isaiah calls it "Galilee of the nations" (Is 9:1).

It is a borderland, a place of transit where people of different races, cultures, and religions converge. Thus Galilee becomes a symbolic place for the Gospel to open to all nations. From this point of view, Galilee is like the world of today: the co-presence of different cultures, the necessity for comparison and the necessity of encounter. We too are immersed every day in a kind of "Galilee of the nations", and in this type of context we may feel afraid and give in to the temptation to build fences to make us feel safer, more protected. But Jesus teaches us that the Good News, which he brings, is not reserved to one part of humanity, it is to be communicated to everyone. It is a proclamation of joy destined for those who are waiting for it, but also for all those who perhaps are no longer waiting for anything and haven't even the strength to seek and to ask.

Starting from Galilee, Jesus teaches us that no one is excluded from the salvation of God, rather it is from the margins that God prefers to begin, from the least, so as to reach everyone. He teaches us a method, his method, which also expresses the content, which is the Father's mercy. "Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach

all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 20).

Jesus begins his mission not only from a decentralized place, but also among men whom one would call, refer to, as having a "low profile". When choosing his first disciples and future apostles, he does not turn to the schools of scribes and doctors of the Law, but to humble people and simple people, who diligently prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Jesus goes to call them where they work, on the lakeshore: they are fishermen. He calls them, and they follow him, immediately. They leave their nets and go with him: their life will become an extraordinary and fascinating adventure.

Dear friends, the Lord is calling today too! The Lord passes through the paths of our daily life. Even today at this moment, here, the Lord is passing through the square. He is calling us to go with him, to work with him for the Kingdom of God, in the "Galilee" of our times. May each one of you think: the Lord is passing by today, the Lord is watching me, he is looking at me! What is the Lord saying to me? And if one of you feels that the Lord says to you "follow me" be brave, go with the Lord. The Lord never disappoints. Feel in your heart if the Lord is calling you to follow him. Let's let his gaze rest on us, hear his voice, and follow him! "That the joy of the Gospel may reach to the ends of the earth, illuminating even the fringes of our world" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 288). Pope Francis, *Angelus* Address, St Peter's Square, 26 January 2014.

GENERAL NEWS

Thinking about Diocesan Priesthood in 2017?

For more information, please contact Fr. Keith Herrera by e-mail at: administrator@cathedral-abdn.org, or telephone 01224 640 160.

.. or the Permanent Diaconate? Men aged 35 and over, who are discerning a greater sense of service in the Church, can serve in our Diocese as Permanent Deacons. For more details, speak to Fr Domenico, the Diocesan Vocations Director for the Permanent Diaconate.

The Justice and Peace Group will be meeting again on **Wednesday 1st February, at 7.30 pm**. Donna Morris from SCIAF will be speaking about the 'Rediscovering Mercy' programme, which has been delivered successfully around Scotland. The meeting begins at 7.30 pm at the Olive Grove cafe in the Crown area of Inverness. New members are warmly welcomed.

Lent Station Masses 2017 Every Friday at 7.00 pm

3 March	St Ninian's, Inverness
10 March	St Mary's, Inverness
17 March	Our Lady & St Bean, Marydale
24 March	St Vincent's, Tain *
31 March	St Columba's, Culloden
7 April	St Anne's, Thurso

* Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB. In addition, Bishop Hugh will dedicate the new outdoor altar at Stratherrick, at 12 noon on Saturday 25 March.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 7-14 July 2017: this year, the Diocesan pilgrimage will be to Lourdes. The pilgrimage, organised by Tangney Tours, will be led by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB. Accommodation will be in the 4-star Hotel Mediterranee. The price is **£767 per person**, which includes: flights, hotel transfers, full board accommodation, taxes. There is a **single room supplement of £161**. Travel insurance: £30 per person. For further information and a booking form, please contact Deacon John Wire, via e-mail: jj.wire@btinternet.com, or telephone 07711 847582.

PARISH NEWS

"CATHOLICISM" is coming to St Columba's!! From **Wednesday 1 February**, and throughout Lent, we will be journeying around the world, deep

into our Catholic Faith, with the acclaimed DVD study series "Catholicism". With creator and host Bishop Robert Barron, you will learn *what* Catholics believe and *why*, while being immersed in the art, architecture, literature, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition. The "CATHOLICISM" Faith Formation Programme brings the beauty, goodness and truth of the Church to life so that you can better understand and share your faith. This study programme is open to everyone, regardless of age and parish! Book your place on Wednesdays in Lent now!

First Holy Communion Preparation: the first class start on **Thursday 26 January at 5.30pm**. If any children are yet to register, please collect a form from the Sacristy and return it as soon as possible.

Parish Pilgrimage(s): many of you followed my experiences during my recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land. You can read about it on our website, at: <http://www.stcolumbasculloden.org/pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-9-16-january-2017.html>.

Would you like to take part in a Parish Pilgrimage at the end of this year, and/or in 2018? Speak to Fr Domenico!

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 24th January at 4.30 pm – Ji Ji, Shona, and Don.

Christmas Day Raffle Prizes are on table in the front lobby. If you are a winner, please make sure that you collect your prize! Thank you to everyone who took part.

"90 Club" fees are now due for those who pay in advance; please check with Don. **Draw next Sunday (29 January) after Mass.** There are some numbers still left – only £2 a month.

Prize Bingo: Friday 27 January, at 7.00pm is the date of our next 'eyes down' – thereafter every last Friday until June. Family fun! Prizes always needed; your help in donating items is always greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Leslie Murray + Jane Green + Frances Boyle + Ewen Macdonald + Brian Murray + Lachlan MacNeil

Anniversaries: Sister Barbara Campbell L.S.U. + Theresa McKelvie + Jeff Calderwood + Rudi Boa