



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

24 MARCH 2019:
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

Mass Readings

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

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 24 March	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 26 March	Tuesday of Week 3 of Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 27 March	Wednesday of Week 3 of Lent Mass Intention: Margaret Wylie, RIP (Anniversary)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 28 March	Thursday of Week 3 of Lent Mass Intention: Patrick Oates, RIP (Anniversary)	Sacrament of Reconciliation * Stations of the Cross * Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 29 March	Friday of Week 3 of Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon
Saturday 30 March	Saturday of Week 3 of Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.30 am 11.00 am
Sunday 31 March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Second Collection: SCIAF	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Third Sunday of Lent: What Idea Do We Have Of God?

Unfortunately, every day the press reports bad news: homicides, accidents, catastrophes.... In today's Gospel passage, Jesus refers to two tragic events which had caused a stir: a cruel suppression carried out by Roman soldiers in the temple, and the collapse of the tower of Siloam in Jerusalem, which resulted in 18 deaths (cf. Lk 13:1-5).

Jesus is aware of the superstitious mentality of his listeners and he knows that they misinterpreted that type of event. In fact, they thought that, if those people died in such a cruel way it was a sign that God was punishing them for some grave sin they had committed, as if to say "they deserved it". Instead, the fact that they were saved from such a disgrace made them feel "good about themselves". They "deserved it"; "I'm fine".

Jesus clearly rejects this outlook, because God does not allow tragedies in order to punish sins, and he affirms that those poor victims were no worse than others. Instead, he invites his listeners to draw from these sad events a lesson that applies to everyone, because we are all sinners; in fact, he said to those who questioned him, "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (v. 3).

Today too, seeing certain misfortunes and sorrowful events, we can be tempted to "unload" the responsibility onto the victims, or even onto God himself. But the Gospel invites us

to reflect: What idea do we have of God? Are we truly convinced that God is like that, or isn't that just our projection, a god made to "our image and likeness"?

Jesus, on the contrary, invites us to change our heart, to make a radical about-face on the path of our lives, to abandon compromises with evil — and this is something we all do, compromises with evil, hypocrisy.... I think that nearly all of us has a little hypocrisy — in order to decidedly take up the path of the Gospel. But again there is the temptation to justify ourselves. What should we convert from? Aren't we basically good people? — How many times have we thought this: "But after all I am a good man, I'm a good woman"... isn't that true? "Am I not a believer and even quite a churchgoer?" And we believe that this way we are justified.

Unfortunately, each of us strongly resembles the tree that, over many years, has repeatedly shown that it's infertile. But, fortunately for us, Jesus is like a farmer who, with limitless patience, still obtains a concession for the fruitless vine. "Let it alone this year" — he said to the owner — "we shall see if it bears fruit next year" (cf. v. 9).

(Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 28 February 2016)

GENERAL NEWS

Mgr. Robert McDonald, RIP: Funeral Arrangements – Mgr. Robert will be received into the chapel at Pluscarden Abbey this afternoon (Sunday 24 March) at 4.00pm; the Funeral Mass will take place on Monday 25 March at 12 noon. After the Mass, Mgr. Robert will be interred in Dufftown cemetery, as per his request.

Lenten Station Masses – the remaining Station Masses for Lent 2019 in our Highland Deanery are as follows:

29 March St. Joachim's, Wick
5 April St. Mary's, Beaulieu
12 April St. Columba's, Culloden

PARISH NEWS

Lenten Station Mass at St. Columba's, 12 April – this year, we will be hosting the final Lenten Station Mass. As always, this is a wonderful occasion for worship together with our brothers and sisters in our parishes throughout the Deanery. It is a time for friendship and spiritual solidarity. Please do come along and support our parish. To this end, we are looking for volunteers to assist with the organisation and catering on the night. We are looking for help with:

- Setting up tables for teas/coffees/soft drinks
- Providing food (no meat – Friday in Lent!!)
- Serving teas/coffees; kitchen assistance
- Tidying up and restoring chairs in the church

Weekly Offertory Envelopes: the envelopes for the new financial year (April onwards) are now available in the entrance foyer.

“The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross”: **Lenten Reflections at St. Columba's** – The Seven Last ‘Words’ of Jesus Christ from the cross are actually 7 short phrases that Jesus uttered on Calvary. We shall be examining each one of these seven phrases, or ‘words’, throughout Lent, on the following **Wednesday evenings, at 7.00pm:**

27 March – Second and Third ‘Words’
3 April – Fourth and Fifth ‘Words’
10 April – Sixth and Seventh ‘Words’

Men's Breakfast Club – Saturday 30 March at 10.30am: Calling ALL MEN! – Several of us in the Highlands are forming a Breakfast Club for men. We would hope to have a traditional Scottish breakfast once a month. This invitation is for you, the men, and it is an occasion to meet and eat in Catholic fellowship. The first Breakfast Meeting will be at St. Columba's, Culloden, on Saturday 30 March at 10.30am. We hope that further meetings would be at different parishes, to give the greatest possible opportunities for participation. Please get in touch with me, Eric Hanna, if you need information or clarification: Eric Hanna at 07960340334 or ericthanna@googlemail.com.

Mother's Day: 31 March! – We have a great selection of gifts at our Piety Stall to celebrate Mother's Day. Why not have a look at our selection, and purchase a gift for the wonderful Mother in your life?!

Stations of the Cross: each Thursday evening during Lent – **beginning Thursday 7 March** – we will pray the Stations of the Cross, from 7.00pm, before the Evening Mass.

SCIAF WEE BOX APPEAL – Every Lent, the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, thousands of Catholics in Scotland save money in their SCIAF WEE BOX to help give a hand up to people living in poverty. Donations to the WEE BOX have helped people in countries like Uganda where a generation of young people have been left without hope, trapped in extreme poverty. Together we are helping them to be independent, support themselves and their families, and have real hope for the future. By collecting your loose change, or giving up a treat like chocolate or wine and putting what you save into a WEE BOX, 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.**

Sacramental Preparation for First Holy Communion in 2019 – classes will take place on **Thursdays at 5.30pm**, lasting for 30 minutes. The remaining dates for this term are as follows:

- March 28th
- April 4th

First Holy Communions will take place on **Sunday 23 June 9.30am**. If you have any questions please get in touch with Helen.

Easter Raffle – Would you like to win the Bunny Rabbit? It's First Prize in our **Easter Raffle on display in the front lobby**, £1 for a strip of five tickets. Name & phone number on the back of the ticket, please. Raffle drawn after Mass on Easter Sunday.

BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP: the group meets on Mondays, from 9.30am to 11.30am. Why not come along and join in the fun?!

Cleaning Team – Monday 25th March at 1.30pm: Margaret and Isobel. Would you like to help us in 2019? Helping just one hour a month would lighten the load of others who keep the church nice and clean. See Don for details.

90 CLUB DRAWN NEXT WEEK, 31 MARCH – There are still a few numbers available if you would like to try your luck. Ask Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO: NEXT FRIDAY, 29TH MARCH – ‘eyes down’ at 7.00pm. ALL WELCOME. Non-perishable items are always needed, to give as prizes; thank you for all the wonderful items that come in: these make our fundraiser so successful. Thank you for your support.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Vinnie Walton + Michael Good + Magda Maclean + Evelyn MacGregor +

R.I.P: + Monsignor Robert McDonald + Elsie Heinowski +

Anniversaries: + Kathleen Tierney, + Edward Lafferty + Margaret Wylie + Patrick Oates +