



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

24TH JANUARY 2016
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,
YEAR C

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

Psalm: Ps 18:8-10. 15

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. 27

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 24 January	Third Sunday of the Year (C) (Second Collection: Catholic Education)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Tuesday 26 January	Memorial of St Timothy and St Titus	Mass	19.30
Wednesday 27 January	Wednesday in the Third Week of the Year	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 28 January	Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas	Mass	19.30
Friday 29 January	Friday in the Third Week of the Year	NO MASS	
Sunday 31 January	Fourth Sunday of the Year (C) (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available 30 minutes before each Mass.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C – Mercy and Mission

Today we begin our Sunday readings from the gospel of Saint Luke, which will continue throughout this liturgical year. Here, as the gospel opens, Luke deliberately brings forward an episode that Matthew and Mark have as occurring later in Jesus' public ministry. In this way the story hits us with great force. It is the public and explicit Manifesto of the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ. Jesus sets out his programme with Spirit and with power.

The setting is his own home synagogue that he would have known from his childhood, a familiar place. The drama is played out: Jesus stands up to read, the official hands over of the large scroll of the prophet Isaiah, Jesus unrolls the scroll at his chosen place, he proclaims the prophecy. Handing back the sacred text there is silence and anticipation. "All eyes in the synagogue are fixed on him." He sits, (to teach) and then come the resounding words of the Christ, which we hear this morning in our own churches and congregations: "Today this text is being fulfilled even as you hear it".

We Christians, who hear this read amongst us this Sunday, we have also been sent, by Jesus. We have also been anointed by his Holy Spirit. This prophecy of power and service is being fulfilled even now as we hear it today and as he, the same one, is present in our assemblies and in our mass. His mission is the same one into which we were "Christened": baptised and anointed in the one Holy Spirit. St Paul explains this in the second reading today – about Christian people in all their diversity and complementarity forming the Body of Christ. Any and every Christian community, parish, congregation or meeting is called to be

the living embodying of the presence, salvation and mission of Jesus the Christ in that particular place and at that particular time.

Our first reading today is an account of the re-establishment of the Commonwealth of Israel after the devastation of the Exile in Babylon. Ezra the priest "learned in the Torah" and Nehemiah the Civil Administrator lead the People of God to promise to follow the Law of God as the Book of the Law is read out.

Christianity is not a religion of the book (as is often said), but of a person, the living person of Jesus who calls all to become part of the ongoing embodying of his life in each generation and in every place. Christianity is centred around the living and crucified Lord who comes to us in word and in sacrament and also in the poor, the imprisoned, the hungry and the naked, the broken hearted and the lost. We have all become familiar with the idea of the Christian liturgy as made up of word and sacrament but it is really made up of three parts: word, sacrament and the ongoing Christian life of works of mercy which are to flow out of our worship and lead us back to it. Christianity can no more give up works of mercy than it can give up the sacraments or the Scriptures. None of the three are optional. In this "Year of Mercy" it is refreshing to remind ourselves of the essential structuring character in the Christian life of works of charity and mercy along with our devotion to the Scriptures and the sacraments.

(Fr. John Farrell, OP)

GENERAL NEWS

HCPT Quiz Night: Friday 29 January at 7.30pm

Think you're good at quizzes? Then get a team together, and come along to the Quiz Night at the Craigmorie Hotel! The cost is £5.00 each, or £20.00 per team. All proceeds go to the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT). If interested, please contact Maria Lamond on 07885 726426, to book your team.

PARISH NEWS

Today's Second Collection is for the work of Catholic Education in Scotland. Today is Education Sunday, marking the start of a week when we celebrate the importance of educating children and young people in faith. During Catholic Education Week we reflect how we are "Learning to be Merciful". This learning takes place in homes as well as schools, in workplaces as well as churches. We must all be "witnesses to mercy".

Parish Fundraising and Social Events: would you like to see, or to be involved in, the following events at St Columba's:

- Coffee Mornings
- Bring and Buy Sale
- Sale of Work
- Social Evening / Dinner-Dance
- Quiz Night... etc.

These are just a few examples; if you have any ideas, please speak to Fr Domenico. Remember: nothing can happen in the parish without your enthusiasm and support!

'Faith in Film' Evenings: January's film is entitled **Shadowlands** (1993), starring Anthony Hopkins and Deborah Winger. It will be screened on **Wednesday 27 January, from 7.00pm onwards**. This Oscar-nominated and BAFTA-Award winning film is an emotionally-moving drama based on the real-life romance between the writer and academic C. S. Lewis and the American poet Joy Gresham. It is an absorbing story of both personal and spiritual transformation. Certificate 12 (126 minutes). Our film for February – **I Confess** (1953) – ties in with our forthcoming Day of Discussion and Reflection on the Sacrament of Penance (Saturday 27 February – see the right-hand column on this page). "I Confess" will be screened on **Wednesday 17 February, from 7.00pm**. It is directed by the legendary Alfred Hitchcock (himself a Catholic), and includes stars such as Montgomery Clift, Anne Baxter, and Karl Malden. The story is a classic suspense, centring around a Catholic Priest who learns of a murder whilst hearing a penitent's Confession. Bound by the Sacramental Seal, the priest is unable to do or say anything, not even when suspicion begins to fall on him.. Certificate PG (92 minutes).

ASH WEDNESDAY: 10 February 2016: Please hand in to the Sacristy any palms from previous years, which we will burn and use to make ash.

Lenten Station Masses: all Station Masses take place on Fridays during Lent, beginning at 7.00pm:

12 February	St Mary's, Inverness
19 February	St Mary's, Beaulieu
26 February	St Joseph's, Invergordon
4 March	Christ the King, Brora

11 March St Martin's, Ullapool (with Bishop Hugh)

18 March St Mary's, Nairn (with Bishop Hugh)

These Masses are important occasions for us to share our Catholic faith and heritage with our brothers and sisters in neighbouring parishes and throughout the Highland Deanery. Please do make an effort to attend as many of these Masses as you can.

Saturday 13 February – Iona Group for Teenagers:

Calling all teenagers in the Highland Deanery: the next meeting of the Iona Group will take place at St Columba's on Saturday afternoon, 12 February, from 5.00pm onwards. Come along for a relaxing evening, with a good movie (title to be confirmed), some delicious food, and fine company! We will also have a discussion of how you would like this group to develop, and what you would like to help you grow in your faith. Come and join us!

Saturday 27 February – "The Sacrament of Confession: Reconciling Ourselves with Our Merciful Father".

This will be a day of discussion and reflection on the Church's 'neglected sacrament', as part of our wider programme of parish initiatives for the Year of Mercy. We will look at its history and development, and discuss some of the reasons for its lack of popularity nowadays. There will also be a presentation on "Confession 'do's and 'don'ts", and a Q&A session. Further details to follow.

Church cleaning: Tuesday 26 January, 4.30pm – Gi Gi and Shona. If anyone would like to **join the cleaning team**, and help to keep the church lovely and clean, please feel free to come along. Many hands make light work!

"90 Club": The next draw will take place NEXT Sunday, 31 January. You could be a winner if you get one of the few numbers left – only £2.00 monthly; please ask Don.

Prize Bingo: THIS FRIDAY, 29 January. Eyes down 7.00pm. A warm welcome awaits you all! Entry £2.00: raffle and refreshments during the interval. £5.00 for a set of six books + one flyer end game then the main raffle £1 for a strip of six tickets. **HELP REQUIRED TO SET OUT ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AND TO CLEAR AWAY AT ABOUT 9.00pm.** See Don for details. Thank you to all of you who have handed in items to give out as prizes; we always need these to help make the evening go well and the winners go home happy. Suitable prizes include: gift vouchers, boxed toiletries, chocolates, wine, spirits, etc.

FINANCES

No. 1 Account	£ 263.71
Building Fund	£ 194.20

– Thank you for your generosity and support –

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Audrey O'Connell + Anna Black + Leslie Murray + Laura Johnston + Amelia Drew + Cathy Thomson + Ian Angus + Charlotte McPhee

R.I.P.: + Michelle Campbell + Isobel Macmillan + Rt Rev. Ian Murray (Bishop Emeritus, Argyll and the Isles)

Anniversaries: + Sr Barbara Campbell LSU +