



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**25 FEBRUARY 2018:  
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 115 (116): 10, 15-19

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8: 31-34

Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10

Date	Details	Service	Time
<b>Sunday 25 February</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>
Tuesday 27 February	Tuesday of Week 2 in Lent Mass Offering: Donor's Intentions	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 28 February	Wednesday of Week 2 in Lent Mass Offering: Donor's Intentions	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 1 March	Thursday of Week 2 in Lent Mass Offering: Donor's Intentions	Sacrament of Reconciliation * <b>Stations of the Cross</b> * Mass	6.30 pm <b>7.00 pm</b> 7.30 pm
<b>Sunday 4 March</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

## Second Sunday of Lent: Bonds Loosed

The Lenten season continues with another story of testing. Last Sunday, we heard the trial of Jesus in the desert. In this week's First Reading, we hear of how Abraham was put to the test.

The Church has always read this story as a sign of God's love for the world in giving His only begotten son.

In today's Epistle, Paul uses exact words drawn from this story to describe how God, like Abraham, did not withhold His only Son, but handed Him over for us on the Cross (see Romans 8:32; Genesis 22:12,16).

In the Gospel today, too, we hear another echo. Jesus is called God's "beloved Son"—as Isaac is described as Abraham's beloved firstborn son.

These readings are given to us in Lent to reveal Christ's identity and to strengthen us in the face of our afflictions.

Jesus is shown to be the true son that Abraham rejoiced to see (see Matthew 1:1; John 8:56). In His transfiguration, He is revealed to be the "prophet like Moses" foretold by God—raised from among their own kinsmen, speaking with God's own authority (see Deuteronomy 18:15, 19).

Like Moses, He climbs the mountain with three named friends and beholds God's glory in a cloud

(see Exodus 24:1, 9, 15). He is the one prophesied to come after Elijah's return (see Sirach 48:9–10; Malachi 3:1, 23–24).

And, as He discloses to the apostles, He is the Son of Man sent to suffer and die for our sins (see Isaiah 53:3).

As we sing in today's Psalm, Jesus believed in the face of His afflictions, and God loosed Him from the bonds of death (see Psalm 116:3).

His rising should give us the courage to face our trials, to offer ourselves totally to the Father—as He did, as Abraham and Isaac did.

Freed from death by His death, we come to this Mass to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and to renew our vows—as His servants and faithful ones. (Scott Hahn)

### Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

With Peter, James and John we too climb the Mount of the Transfiguration today and stop in contemplation of the face of Jesus to retrieve the message and translate it into our lives; for we too can be transfigured by Love.

## GENERAL NEWS

**“Let it be done unto me according to your word: how Mary helps us to be filled with God”** – a Marian course for Lent, taking place in the Marian Room, at 32 Huntly Street, **on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm**. For enquiries and further information, please contact PJ in the St Mary’s Office, on 01463 233519.

**Fundraiser Indian Buffet Night, with Raffle and Silent Auction** – at George’s Restaurant, Queensgate, Inverness, on Wednesday 28 February, at 7.00pm. In aid of the forthcoming youth pilgrimage to Lourdes. Tickets: £20/Adult; £10/child. For further information, or to reserve a ticket, please contact Iona on 07851 420948.

### **Lent Station Masses 2018 – Fridays at 7.00pm:**

2 March: St Aidan’s, Aviemore \* (coach)

9 March: St Lawrence’s, Dingwall

16 March: Christ the King, Brora \* (coach)

23 March: St Duthac’s, Dornie (coach)

\* Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

Coaches are available to Aviemore (£7), Brora (£8), and Dornie (£10). If you would like to reserve a seat on any of them, please contact PJ in the St Mary’s Office, on 01463 233519.

**St John Ogilvie Mass 2018: Saturday 10 March, at St Thomas’, Keith.** Mass begins at 2.00pm. Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB; Homilist: Fr Domenico Zanrè. All welcome.

**Chrism Mass 2018: Thursday 22 March, at St Peter’s, Buckie.** Mass begins at 6.00pm. All welcome.

## PARISH NEWS

**SCIAF WEE BOX APPEAL** – This Lent you have an incredible opportunity to give a hand up to families living in poverty. Families like the Langs, from Cambodia, depend on fishing and farming to survive. They used to struggle to have enough food to eat because of poverty and criminal gangs fishing illegally in their local river. Now they can support themselves. By giving up a treat for the 40 days of Lent and placing the money you save in your WEE BOX, you’ll help change the lives of families like the Langs. **This year you have a fantastic opportunity to make double the difference.** The UK government is matching, pound-for-pound, all donations given to our WEE BOX appeal made before the 8th May. Every pound you save will go even further to helping our brothers and sisters around the world to survive and thrive. **WEE BOX PACKS are available in the entrance foyer – please take one home.**

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

**FREE Daily Lent Reflections** - Would you like a deeper, more powerful Lent this year? Then sign up for Bishop Robert Barron’s FREE daily Lent reflections at [LentReflections.com](http://LentReflections.com). Each day, from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, the creator and host of the CATHOLICISM Faith Formation programme will send you a short reflection, straight to your inbox. There’s simply no better way to super-charge your Lent. Be sure to sign-up at [LentReflections.com](http://LentReflections.com)!

**‘From the Dark Wood to the Beatific Vision: Journeying Through Lent with Dante’.** This Lent, at St Columba’s, 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 fourteenth-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.** Please spread the word – all welcome!

**St Columba’s Mothers and Toddlers Group:** Mondays at 9.30am-11.30am, in the Meeting Room. After the school break, we return again tomorrow on Monday 26 February.

**Cleaning Team:** Monday 26th February, at 1.30pm – Isobel and Margaret. Can you help? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

**“90 Club”: DRAW TODAY after Mass.** You too could be a winner if you have a number! Only £2 a month. See Don for details.

**Prize Bingo: NEXT BINGO: FRIDAY, 23 MARCH – ‘eyes down’ at 7.00pm.** A warm welcome awaits you. 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!

## 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.:** Donald John Macphee + Julia Monaghan