



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

25 MARCH 2018:

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION, YEAR B

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7

Psalm: Ps 21 (22): 8-9, 17-20, 23-24

2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11

Gospel: Mark 15: 1-39

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 25 March	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION Second Collection: Holy Places	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 27 March	Tuesday of Holy Week	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 28 March	Wednesday of Holy Week	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.00 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 29 March	MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass of the Lord's Supper Watching at the Altar of Repose	6.30 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 30 March	GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION	Liturgy of the Passion Stations of the Cross	3.00 pm 7.00 pm
Saturday 31 March	HOLY SATURDAY / EASTER VIGIL	Blessing of Food – in English Easter Vigil	11.00am 8.30 pm
Sunday 1 April	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Palm Sunday of the Passion

*When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.*

*With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.*

*The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.*

*Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.
~ G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)*

Chesterton's poem *The Donkey* is a classic of reversed perspectives; he offers us an unexpected prophecy in the mouth of a donkey.

There is one particular aspect that seems to stand out – it has to do with the fact that God can use even that which has a

self-esteem that is low, that which everyone and everything else completely dismisses as ugly, ludicrous, useless, and unimportant!

Throughout the poem the donkey sees itself as mocked, derided, and dismissed by society. However, it has a secret – it had its hour, its moment in the sun. There was a day, a time, when Jesus himself, chose the donkey. The One who was 'King of kings and Lord of lords' (Revelation 19:6) chose to ride on a humble donkey, into the streets of Jerusalem, in declaration of who he truly was. And in that moment the humbly donkey – dismissed by the majority and full of self-loathing – was elevated to a position way above anything that it had previously considered possible in the extreme! No wonder the donkey – now full of the kind of confidence and rightful self-esteem that comes from knowing that God can use even the humblest of creatures – considers those who are so dismissive of him 'Fools' who know nothing of the way God works, time and again. Using a poor widow woman with two copper coins (Luke 21:2-4), or a small boy with a few loaves and fishes (John 6:1-14), rather than rich men with bags of gold or 'grow ups' who keep their 'food' for themselves? As the Apostle Paul tells the Corinthian Christians: 'God deliberately chose men and women that society overlooks and exploits and abuses ... chose "nobodies"' (1 Corinthians 1:27) in order to fulfil his great plans and purposes for the world! (Rev. Jim Binney)

PARISH NEWS

Assistance for Holy Week liturgies – we are looking for people to assist us with our Holy Week liturgies; in particular, we need:

- **Readers**
- **Extraordinary Ministers**
- **Servers**
- **Volunteers for Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet**
- **Help with Easter Flowers**

Can you help? Please do come to the Sacristy and put your name down **in advance**, or speak to Fr Domenico and/or Helen.

The Sacrament of Confession: An Embrace of Love
During his homily at his morning Mass on Thursday (22 March), Pope Francis made the following remark: “When we approach the Sacrament of Penance, please: we must not think we are going to the dry cleaners to remove dirt. No. We are going to receive the embrace of love of this faithful God, who is always waiting for us. Always.” Why not experience the unending mercy of God during Holy Week as an ideal spiritual preparation for Easter? The Sacrament of Confession is available at St Columba’s on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week, for an hour before the start of Mass (see overleaf for times), and at any other time on request. “A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.”

Today’s Second Collection: The Holy Places –

Every day, young Christian families in the Holy Land try to live upright lives, centred on the teachings of Jesus, just as we do. These Christians, living where Christ walked and taught, lived and died, still live in a land of war, death and destruction. The work of the Franciscan Friars for these native Christians, for the poor, and for the pilgrims who come to visit, depends greatly on your support. Please be as generous as you can to the people of the Holy Land, and to the Friars who preserve the Shrines and Holy Places.

Traditional Blessing of Food – this custom takes place on the morning of Holy Saturday. The custom of blessing food for Easter arose from the discipline of fasting throughout Lent and the special Easter fast during the Easter Triduum. Easter Sunday was the first day when meat, eggs, and other foods could again be eaten. This is an opportunity for you to have food blessed, which will be consumed over the Easter period: eggs, bread, hams, sausages, and other meats (sweets for the children), etc. The food is usually presented in a wicker basket. Why not get your children involved in decorating this, and in painting their own eggs?! The short blessing will be conducted in English, and is for the whole parish community. Why not come along as a family?

Mary Magdalene at Eden Court! – The new movie on the life of Mary Magdalene, starring Rooney Mara and Joaquin Phoenix, will be screening at Eden Court

cinema, from Friday 20 April – Thursday 26 April. Certificate 12A.

Weekly Offertory Envelopes: there are still a few envelopes for the new financial year (April onwards) are now available in the entrance foyer. Please do pick them up and use them in the coming year. Thank you!

RETURN OF SCIAF WEE BOXES – Please return these boxes to us from Easter Sunday onwards. 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.**

‘From the Dark Wood to the Beatific Vision: Journeying Through Lent with Dante’. This Wednesday, 28 March, is our LAST meeting.
We will continue our ascent through the heavenly spheres of Paradise, meeting St Bernard, St Peter, and the Blessed Virgin Mary, before coming in to the presence of the Beatific Vision! There will also be a general discussion of the Church’s teaching on the ‘Four Last Things’ (Hell, Purgatory, Heaven, The Last Judgment) Why not come along and join us on Wednesday from 7.00pm onwards? All welcome!

St Columba’s Baby and Toddler Group: Mondays at 9.30am-11.30am, in the Meeting Room. Come along and join the fun!

Cleaning Team: Monday 26th March, 1.30pm – Isobel and Don, and anyone else who would like to come along. Can you help? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

‘EASTER RAFFLE’ – Tickets on sale now! £1 for a strip of five, name/phone number on the back, please. **The raffle will be drawn on Easter Sunday, 1st April.**

“90 Club”: **DRAW TODAY AFTER MASS!** – Good luck to all who have a number. You too could be a winner: only £2 a month! See Don for details.

Prize Bingo: FRIDAY 27 APRIL – ‘eyes down’ at 7.00pm. Family fun for all! A warm welcome awaits you. Items to give as prizes are always needed. 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 + Ellen Williams + Eva Zandre

R.I.P.: + George McGee + Keith Patrick O’Brien +

Anniversaries: + Derek Reid + Margaret Hodgkins + Pope John Paul II + Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother +