



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

26 FEBRUARY 2017: EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 14-15

Psalm: Ps 61 (62): 2-3, 6-9

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5

Gospel: Matthew 6: 24-34

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 26 February	EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 28 February	Tuesday of Week 8 in Ordinary Time	Evening Prayer Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 1 March	ASH WEDNESDAY – START OF LENT <i>A day of fasting and abstinence</i>	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	11.00 am 11.30 am 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 2 March	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	Sacrament of Reconciliation * Stations of the Cross * Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 5 March 2017	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available 30 minutes before every Mass.

Eighth Sunday of the Year: Entrusting Ourselves to God's Providence (Pope Francis)

At the centre of this Sunday's Liturgy we find one of the most reassuring truths: Divine Providence. The Prophet Isaiah presents it as the image of maternal love full of tenderness, and thus says: "Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you" (49:15). How beautiful is this! God does not forget us, not one of us! Everyone by name and surname. He loves us and doesn't forget. What a beautiful thought.... This invitation to trust in God finds a parallel on a page of Matthew's Gospel: "Look at the birds in the sky", Jesus says, "they do not sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them.... Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these" (Mt 6:26, 28-29). However, thinking of the many people who live in precarious conditions, or even in a poverty offensive to their dignity, these words of Jesus could seem abstract, if not illusory. But actually they are relevant, now more than ever! They remind us that you cannot serve two masters: God and wealth. As long as everyone seeks to accumulate for themselves, there will never be justice. We must take heed of this! As long as everyone seeks to accumulate for themselves, there will be no justice. Instead, by entrusting ourselves to God's providence, and seeking his Kingdom together, no one will lack the necessary means to live with dignity.

A heart troubled by the desire for possessions is a heart full of desire for possessions, but empty of God. That is why Jesus frequently warned the rich, because they greatly risk placing their security in the goods of this world, and

security, the final security, is in God. In a heart possessed by wealth, there isn't much room for faith: everything is involved with wealth, there is no room for faith. If, however, one gives God his rightful place, that is first place, then his love leads one to share even one's wealth, to set it at the service of projects of solidarity and development, as so many examples demonstrate, even recent ones, in the history of the Church. And like this God's Providence comes through our service to others, our sharing with others. If each of us accumulates not for ourselves alone but for the service of others, in this case, in this act of solidarity, the Providence of God is made visible. If, however, one accumulates only for oneself, what will happen when one is called by God? No one can take his riches with him, because — as you know — the shroud has no pockets! It is better to share, for we can take with us to Heaven only what we have shared with others.

The road that Jesus points out can seem a little unrealistic with respect to the common mindset and to problems due to the economic crisis; but, if we think about it, this road leads us back to the right scale of values. He says: "Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing!" (Mt 6:25). In order to ensure that no one lacks bread, water, clothing, a home, work, health, we need to recognize that all people are children of the Father who is in Heaven and, therefore, brothers among us, and that we must act accordingly. ... the way to peace is fraternity — this going together, sharing things with one another. He is with us, and sends us His help in our weakness. (*Angelus*, 2 March 2014)

GENERAL NEWS

Tues 28 February at 7.00pm: Gabriel Society Talk: – in the St Mary's Presbytery, at 30 Huntly Street. *Approaching Lent – Addresses & Discussion* Fr Andrew Niski: "Discipline & Mercy". At 8.30pm, there will be Shrove Tuesday pancakes & tea/coffee/infusions.

Lent Station Masses 2017 (Fridays, at 7.00pm)

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.**

These Lent Station 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.

PARISH NEWS

START OF LENT – Ash Wednesday, 1 March: Please note that there will be **TWO Masses** on Ash Wednesday at St Columba's: at 11.00am, and 7.30pm. Remember that **Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence:** we fast by consuming only one main meal, and we abstain from eating meat.

Stations of the Cross: each Thursday evening during Lent – beginning Thursday 2 March – 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. 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!

Justice and Peace Group: "Rediscovering Mercy"

Members of the Justice and Peace group will be studying the SCIAF-sponsored course entitled **"Rediscovering Mercy"** during Lent. This is a four-week course reflecting Catholic Social Teaching, and the difference it can make in our lives. The sessions will be held on Tuesdays in March (7, 14, 21, 28) in the Olive Grove Cafe from 7.30pm–9.00pm. All welcome. If you have any questions please contact Jill Kent at jillkent@me.com.

FIRS: Thursday 9 March, from 2.00pm: The Friends in Retirement Group are joined by Chrisanne Robertson, who will give a talk on the Highland Malawi Trust. All welcome!

Can you help? An elderly parishioner living in the Balloch area is looking for someone to help her tidy up her paperwork. Would suit someone who is retired. If interested, please speak to Fr Domenico.

Parish Pilgrimages led by Fr Domenico:

Rome, October 2017: I am currently negotiating the cheapest price possible for 5 days in Rome, during the Autumn School Holidays. Watch this space for details!

Holy Land, November 2018: This pilgrimage will mark the 10th Anniversary of the dedication of our church. The approximate cost for 8 days will be in the region of £1,300. Why not join us for the trip of a life-time?! For details of the provisional itinerary, see the page on our parish website! If you are interested, please contact Fr Domenico asap.

Items for Sale in the Foyer: this is your last chance to pick a BOOK to read, a DVD to watch, or a CD to listen to from the table at the front hall – just put a donation in the basket and enjoy! All proceeds go to church funds.

Are you a new parishioner(s)? – please do introduce yourself to Fr Domenico, and kindly fill out a Parish Registration Form, available in the foyer. Thank you, and a warm welcome to St Columba's!

Cleaning Team: Tuesday 28 February – Mary and Marie. If you would like to help us clean the church, just come along, or speak to Don.

"90 Club" – DRAWN TODAY after Mass. Good luck to all who have number/s. New members are welcome to join in; only £2 per month!

Prize Bingo – Next Draw: Friday 24 March, at 7.00pm (note change of date). A family fun night! Come and join us! Items to give as prizes are always needed (toiletries, chocolates, wine/spirits, etc). Many thanks for your continued support – it is greatly appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Leslie Murray + Frances Boyle + Ewen Macdonald Snr + Brian Murray + Lachlan MacNeil + Louisa and Suzanne Williams + Cath Maclean + Eilidh McPherson

R.I.P.: Jane Green + Nancy McRae

Anniversaries: Margaret and William Donnelly + Donald John MacMillan +