



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

26TH JUNE 2016

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, C

~ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS ~

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: 1 Kings 19: 16, 19-21

Psalm: Ps 15: 1-2, 5, 7-11

2nd Reading: Galatians 5: 1, 13-18

Gospel: Luke 9: 51-62

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 26 June	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR ~ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS ~ (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 28 June	Vigil Mass of St Peter & St Paul	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 29 June	SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER & ST PAUL ~ HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION ~	** EVENING MASS **	7.30pm
Thursday 30 June	Thursday in the Thirteenth Week of the Year	*Service of the Word and Holy Communion*	7.30pm
Sunday 3 July	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Second Collection: Peter's Pence)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Meeting of Pope Benedict XVI with children who have made their First Holy Communion

Andrea: "Holy Father, in preparing me for my First Communion day, my catechist told me that Jesus is present in the Eucharist. But how? I can't see him!" –

"No, we cannot see him, but there are many things that we do not see but they exist and are essential. For example: we do not see our reason, yet we have reason. We do not see our intelligence and we have it. In a word: we do not see our soul and yet it exists and we see its effects, because we can speak, think and make decisions. Nor do we see an electric current, for example, yet we know that it exists; we see this microphone, that it is working, and we see lights. Therefore, we do not see the very deepest things, those that really sustain life and the world, but we can see and feel their effects. This is also true for electricity; we do not see the electric current but we see the light.

So it is with the Risen Lord: we do not see him with our eyes but we see that wherever Jesus is, people change, they improve. A greater capacity for peace, for reconciliation, is created. Therefore, we do not see the Lord himself, but we see the effects of the Lord: so we can understand that Jesus is present. And as I said, it is precisely the invisible things that are the most profound, the most important. So let us go to meet this invisible but powerful Lord who helps us to live well."

Alessandro: "Pope Benedict, what good does it do for our everyday life to go to Holy Mass and receive Communion?" –

"It centres life. We live amid so many things. And the people who do not go to church, do not know that it is precisely Jesus they lack. But they feel that something is missing in their lives. If God is absent from my life, if Jesus is absent from my life, a guide, an essential friend is

missing, even an important joy for life, the strength to grow ... and mature as a human being.

Therefore, we cannot immediately see the effects of being with Jesus and of going to Communion. But with the passing of the weeks and years, we feel more and more keenly the absence of God, the absence of Jesus... it is important, and I would say fundamental, to be nourished by Jesus in Communion. It is he who gives us enlightenment, offers us guidance for our lives, a guidance that we need."

Anna: "Your Holiness, can you explain to us what Jesus meant when he said to the people who were following him: 'I am the bread of life?'" –

"First of all, perhaps we should explain clearly what bread is. Today, we have a refined cuisine, rich in very different foods, but in simpler situations bread is the basic source of nourishment; and when Jesus called himself the bread of life, the bread .. stands for all nourishment. And as we need to nourish our bodies in order to live, so we also need to nourish our spirits, our souls and our wills. As human persons, we do not only have bodies but also souls; we are thinking beings with minds and wills. We must also nourish our spirits and our souls, so that they can develop and truly attain their fulfilment. And therefore, if Jesus says: 'I am the bread of life', it means that Jesus himself is the nourishment we need for our soul, for our inner self, because the soul also needs food. We really need God's friendship, which helps us to make the right decisions... In other words: Jesus nourishes us so that we can truly become mature people and our lives become good."

– St Peter's Square, 15 October 2005 (adapted).

GENERAL NEWS

Inverness Foodstuff is currently recruiting volunteers. Inverness Foodstuff is a local charity set up in 2015 to address food poverty and social isolation among the homeless and other vulnerable people. A hot lunch is cooked and served twice a week using surplus food from supermarkets. More volunteers are needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays for both cooking and serving. Minimum commitment of one session per month. For further information, please contact Joyce Muir at the following: invernessfoodstuff@gmail.com

TODAY – Diocesan Pilgrimage to Pluscarden Abbey:

12 noon onwards: Refreshments available in the marquee.
1.00pm–3.00pm: Adoration (Lady Chapel).
1.00pm–3.00pm: Confessions (St. Benedict's Retreat).
3.30pm: Pilgrimage Mass & Procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady. Guest Preacher: Fr Ghassan Sahoui SJ.

2016 NEW DAWN YOUTH GATHERING, 4-8 JULY:

New Dawn in Scotland is hosting a youth event at Madras College, St Andrews, 4-8 July 2016. **The gathering is open to 11-17 year olds.** The Community of St Andrew Sisters along with several volunteers are organising the accommodation and food as well as taking part in the youth programme. Accommodation at The Holy Trinity Church Hall, Queen's Terrace, St Andrews, KY16 9QF. **The cost for the 5 days is £50;** please bring a sleeping bag. **(please note that the Diocese of Aberdeen have made their own financial arrangements).** For further information please contact: the St Andrew Community: community@standrewx.org or New Dawn in Scotland. Office: Tel: 0131-447-6153 Mobile: 07931 504578. Email: arena@dhunter.uk.com. Website: www.newdawninscotland.com.

“Youth Rally for Jesus” – Stratherrick, 20 August 2016:

Jesus our Liberator, our Healer, our Friend, our Companion. A Day of Discovery, Adventure, and Devotion, at Stratherrick (IV2 6UL), from 10:00am to 5.00pm. **FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE.** Please book early! For more information, phone 01463 233519, or send an e-mail to: stmarysinverness@btinternet.com.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage, 22-29 October 2016 – Departing from Aberdeen. TOTAL COST: £650.00 (includes flights and half-board accommodation). Deposit of £100 required. Single room supplement: £130. For further details, or to book, please contact Irma Allan, on (01224) 869889, or 07714 718708.

PARISH NEWS

First Holy Communion Congratulations! – to Anna, Alison, Jessica, Fionnuala, Sophie-Maree, Cameron, and Jamie, who all made their First Holy Communion today, and to Alistair, Christopher, and Aidan, who received their First Holy Communion last week from Bishop Hugh. Be assured of our continuing support for you all!

Thank you to our Catechists and Children's Liturgy Coordinators! – Heartfelt thanks to Helen and Ewen for their dedication, commitment, and hard work in preparing our children to receive the Sacraments. Many hours have been put into this important preparation, and it is greatly appreciated by the entire parish. I would also like to thank

Ewen, Ainsley, and everyone who contributes to our Sunday Children's Liturgy. It is heartening to see so many young members of our parish grow in their knowledge and love of the different Bible stories they encounter.

Amoris Laetitia Reading Group: come along to our informal, relaxed reading group, where we'll explore and share some of the ideas in Pope Francis' new teaching document, *Amoris Laetitia* (the Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family). The gatherings will be **on Wednesdays, 7.00pm-8.30pm**, beginning **Wednesday 6 July**. Full details on our parish website. If you are interested in taking part in this reading group, contact Fr Domenico at: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com.

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST: Parish Day Trip to Orkney! **NB. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!**

A Grand Day Out! **The coach departs from Inverness Bus Station at 7.15am, and returns at 9.00pm.** We will drive up to Caithness, board the 10.30am John O'Groats ferry, and cross to the islands. There then follows a **6-hour tour of Orkney.** Highlights include:

- Scapa Flow
- Churchill Barriers
- Italian Chapel (photo stop)
- Skara Brae stone-age village
- Standing Stones of Stenness
- Ring of Brodgar
- Kirkwall

Prices – Adults: £ 72.00; Accompanied Children under 16: £ 36.00; Under 5s go free. All transport included.

Extra: entrance fee to Skara Brae – Historic Scotland site (Adult £7.10, Concession £5.70, Child £4.30).

Closing date: Sunday 3 July. There are a limited number of places. Please sign up on the sheet in the entrance foyer.

Church cleaning – Wednesday 12.30pm Marie (Nairn) and Margaret. Additional help is always appreciated!

“90 Club”: **DRAW TODAY, after Mass!!** Good luck to all who have a number. There are a few still available if you would like to join; ask Don for information.

PRIZE BINGO: Our Fundraiser Bingo will return after the Summer break, in September, on the first Friday of the month. Non-perishable items can still be handed in, and they will be safely stored until September. Thank you for your generosity and support. A big ‘thank you’ to Don, Ellen, and all the team, who do so much to make this Fundraiser a fun – and financially fruitful – event for the parish. Your hard work is much appreciated!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray +

Anniversaries: + Tom Waters + Angela Prendergast + John Sloan + Julie Anne Edwards + Mathew Steel +