



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**27 JANUARY 2019:
THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)**

Mass Readings

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 18 (19):8-10, 15

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

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

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 27 January	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Justice and Peace	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 29 January	Tuesday of Week 3 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 30 January	Wednesday of Week 3 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 31 January	Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 1 February	Friday of Week 3 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention:	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Saturday 2 February	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.30 am 11.00 am
Sunday 3 February	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Comboni Sisters		9.00 am 9.30 am

Third Sunday of the Year: A New Day Dawns

The meaning of today's liturgy is subtle and many-layered. We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading.

Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple (see Ezra 6:15–17) and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see Nehemiah 6:15).

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see Nehemiah 8:8) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3–4; see also Isaiah 60:10); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; Exodus 19:6); and the forging of an

everlasting covenant (61:8; Isaiah 55:3). It sounds a lot like the First Reading.

Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it (compare Luke 4:16–17, 21 and Nehemiah 8:2–6, 8–10).

We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year (see Leviticus 23:24). Jesus also proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God (see Leviticus 25:10).

The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Second Reading teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God—the Church—is made "one body" with Him. (Scott Hahn)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Second Collection: Justice and Peace – The National Commission for Justice and Peace advises the Scottish Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in matters relating to social justice, international peace and human rights, and promotes action in these areas. For further information, please go to the J&P website at:

<https://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk>

Thursday 7 February: Parish Pastoral Council meeting after evening Mass. Could members please inform Fr. Domenico of their availability to attend the meeting. Any items for the agenda should be sent to the parish website address.

Friday 15 February at 7.30pm: "To Hell with Love! – The Politics of Passion in Dante's *Inferno*" – Fr. Domenico will be giving a presentation to the Highland Italian Circle on Dante's *Inferno*, with a suitable 'Valentine' theme. The venue is the Bowling Club at Auldcastle Road. All welcome.

Lenten Station Masses – the Station Masses for Lent 2019 are as follows:

8 March St. Mary's, Inverness

15 March St. Mary's, Beaulieu

22 March St. Ninian's, Inverness

29 March St. Joachim's, Wick

5 April St. Vincent's, Tain

12 April St. Columba's, Culloden

As you can see, we are 'saving the best until last' this year!

Lost and Found: a black glove was left after the Funeral Mass of Audrey O'Connell; **a watch** was also found in the car park near the Nursery. For details, pop in to the Sacristy.

Pilgrimage to Northern Spain: 2-6 September 2019 – Fr. Domenico is happy to take names for our reserve list, if anyone is still interested.

Pilgrimage to the Oberammergau Passion Play, 20-27 July 2020 – We already have **22 people signed up** for this pilgrimage! Fr. Domenico has an option to take **up to 33 pilgrims** to Oberammergau. The price is £1,600 – this includes a return flight from Edinburgh to Munich, airport transfers, seven

night's half-board accommodation, and a full excursion programme, with guides, together with the Oberammergau Passion Play tickets. Brochures and booking forms are forthcoming. Please see Fr. Domenico if you would like to register your interest for this pilgrimage.

Preparation for First Holy Communion in 2019: if your child is of approximately P3 age at Primary School, and you would like to discuss the possibility of him/her being prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and of Holy Communion in Summer 2019, please see Fr. Domenico.

BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP – The group has resumed its weekly meetings, on Mondays from 9.30am to 11.30am. Why not come along and join in the fun?!

Cleaning Team – Monday 28th January at 1.30pm: Margaret and Isobel. Would you like to help us in 2019? Helping just one hour a month would lighten the load of others who keep the church nice and clean. See Don for details.

90 CLUB – DRAW THIS MORNING AFTER MASS! Good luck to everyone who has a number! If you want to find out more, ask Don. There are a few numbers waiting to have a name attached – only £2 – a draw takes place on the last Sunday of each month.

NEXT PRIZE BINGO: Friday 22nd February – items to give as prizes are always needed; thank you for all the wonderful items that come in: these make our fund raiser so successful.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Ellen Williams + Eva Zanre + Vinnie Walton + Laura Johnstone + Michael Good

R.I.P: + Audrey O'Connell + Christopher Kelly

Anniversaries: + Amie Greaves + Maureen Campbell