



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

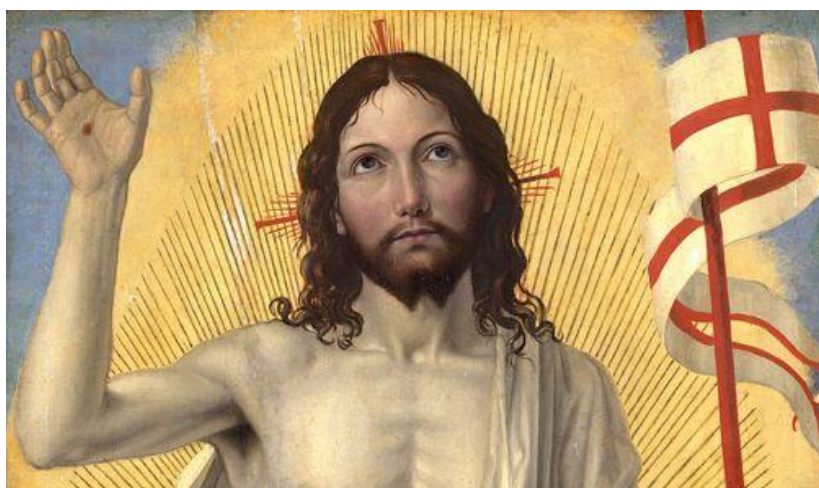
**27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 10: 34, 37-43  
 Psalm: Ps 117: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4  
 Gospel: John 20:1-9

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 27 March	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> (Second Collection: Building Fund)	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel)</b> Mass	<b>9.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b>
Tuesday 29 March	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter	NO MASS	-
Wednesday 30 March	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter	Service of Word and Communion Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 31 March	Thursday within the Octave of Easter	Service of Word and Communion	7.30pm
Friday 1 March	Friday within the Octave of Easter	NO MASS	-
Sunday 3 March	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> – <b>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY</b> – (Second Collection: Holy Places)	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel)</b> Mass	<b>9.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b>

**“He is Risen, Alleluia!”**



Ambrogio Bergognone, *Christ Risen from the Tomb* (detail), c. 1490.  
 National Gallery of Art, Washington DC.

**“Behold the Good News that we are called to take to others and to every place, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Faith in the Resurrection of Jesus and the hope that he brought us is the most beautiful gift that the Christian can and must give to his brothers and sisters. To all and to each, therefore, let us not tire of saying: Christ is Risen!” (Pope Francis, Easter Monday, 6 April 2015)**

## Pope Francis – Urbi et Orbi ('to the City of Rome and the World') – Message for Easter, 31 March 2013

*Dear brothers and sisters in Rome and throughout the world, Happy Easter! Happy Easter!*

What a joy it is for me to announce this message: Christ is risen! I would like it to go out to every house and every family, especially where the suffering is greatest, in hospitals, in prisons ...

Most of all, I would like it to enter every heart, for it is there that God wants to sow this Good News: Jesus is risen, there is hope for you, you are no longer in the power of sin, of evil! Love has triumphed, mercy has been victorious! The mercy of God always triumphs!

We too, like the women who were Jesus' disciples, who went to the tomb and found it empty, may wonder what this event means (cf. *Lk* 24:4). What does it mean that Jesus is risen? It means that the love of God is stronger than evil and death itself; it means that the love of God can transform our lives and let those desert places in our hearts bloom. The love God can do this!

This same love for which the Son of God became man and followed the way of humility and self-giving to the very end, down to hell - to the abyss of separation from God - this same merciful love has flooded with light the dead body of Jesus, has transfigured it, has made it pass into eternal life. Jesus did not return to his former life, to earthly life, but entered into the glorious life of God and he entered there with our humanity, opening us to a future of hope.

This is what Easter is: it is the exodus, the passage of human beings from slavery to sin and evil to the freedom of love and goodness. Because God is life, life alone, and we are his glory: the living man (cf. Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses*, 4,20,5-7).

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ died and rose once for all, and for everyone, but the power of the Resurrection, this passover from slavery to evil to the freedom of goodness, must be accomplished in every age, in our concrete existence, in our everyday lives. How many deserts, even today, do human beings need to cross! Above all, the desert within, when we have no love for God or neighbour, when we fail to realize that we are guardians of all that the Creator has given us and continues to give us. God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones (cf. *Ez* 37:1-14).

So this is the invitation which I address to everyone: Let us accept the grace of Christ's Resurrection! Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.

And so we ask the risen Jesus, who turns death into life, to change hatred into love, vengeance into forgiveness, war into peace. Yes, Christ is our peace, and through him we implore peace for all the world.

### GENERAL NEWS

#### **"Dancing with the Stars" – for children & their families!**

Saturday 2 April, 2.00pm – 5.00pm, in St Mary's Church Hall, Huntly Street. Come along for a fun family afternoon, with a party, food, and drinks. Dance to music with DJ Coli. Tickets, priced at **£5 per person**, are available from the St Mary's Parish Office; tel. 01463 233519.

### PARISH NEWS

**A Message from Bishop Hugh:** "At the beginning of Advent 2015, I launched an Appeal for the Bursary Fund. This covers the costs of our seminarians, who are training to be priests for our diocese. As we now have seven seminarians, the costs are high. I am pleased to let you know we have now reached £50,000 along with a few monthly standing orders through your kind donations. I am most grateful for these contributions. The Appeal leaflets, which have greater detail, are still available in the parishes. If you have not already read one, I ask you please to give it some consideration over the Easter season. With all good wishes for a Blessed Easter. Rt Rev Hugh. Bishop of Aberdeen."

#### **Fr Tony Nye SJ in Inverness for Divine Mercy week:**

Fr Tony Nye SJ, a Jesuit Priest, based in London, is coming to Inverness for a week. He will lead a Day of Reflection at Stratherrick, on the theme of Divine Mercy, on Wednesday 6 April, from 10.00am onwards. He will be available for discussions, advice, or the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Please contact St Mary's Parish Office (01463 233519). More details next week.

#### **Reconciliation and Holy Communion classes:**

Thursdays, 5.30pm - 6.00pm. Meet on 14, 21, 28 April.

#### **Confirmation classes:**

Thursdays, 6.30pm - 7.15pm. Meet on 21 & 28 April.

#### **Church cleaning:** Tuesday 29 March at 10.00am.

Neither of this week's teams are available, so Don will open the church; if anyone is free for an hour, please do come along and help him – your support is greatly appreciated.

**"90 Club": DRAW TODAY AFTER MASS!!** Good luck to all those who have a number. there are a few spare numbers available: only £2 monthly. Please ask Don.

**Prize Bingo:** NO PRIZE BINGO until 29 April. Thank You to everyone who has donated goods for prizes: without your valuable help, we would not have the success that we do. Any non-perishable items can still be handed in; we will store them until our next Bingo night.

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Audrey O'Connell + Anna Black + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Cathy Thomson + Marie Coyle + Mary Innes + Leslie Murray + Ian Angus +

**Anniversaries:** + Margaret Hodgekins + Derek Reid +