



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**28 APRIL 2019:
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
(DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 5: 12-16

Psalm: Ps 117 (118): 2-4, 22-27

2nd Reading: Apocalypse 1: 9-13, 17-19

Gospel: John 20: 19-31

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 28 April	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 30 April	Tuesday of Week 2 in Eastertide	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 1 May	Wednesday of Week 2 in Eastertide	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 2 May	Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 3 May	Saints Philip and James, Apostles - Feast	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon
Saturday 4 May	Saturday of Week 2 in Eastertide	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.30 am 11.00 am
Sunday 5 May	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Second Sunday of Easter: Breath of New Life

The prophet Daniel in a vision saw “One like the Son of Man” receive everlasting kingship (see Daniel 7:9–14). John is taken to heaven in today’s Second Reading where he sees Daniel’s prophecy fulfilled in Jesus, who appears as “One like a Son of Man.”

Jesus is clad in the robe of a High Priest (see Exodus 28:4; Wisdom 18:24) and wearing the gold sash of a king (see 1 Maccabees 10:89). He has been exalted by the right hand of the Lord, as we sing in today’s Psalm. His risen body, which the Apostles touch in today’s Gospel, has been made a life-giving Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 15:45).

As the Father anointed Him with the Spirit and power (see Acts 10:38), Jesus pours out that Spirit on the Apostles, sending them into the world “as the Father has sent Me.”

Jesus “breathes” the Spirit of His divine life into the Apostles—as God blew the “breath of life” into Adam (see Genesis 2:7), as Elijah’s prayer returned “the life breath” to the dead child (see 1 Kings 17:21–23), and

as the Spirit breathed new life into the slain in the valley of bones (see Ezekiel 37:9–10).

His creative breath unites the Apostles—His Church—to His body, and empowers them to breathe His life into a dying world, to make it a new creation.

In today’s Gospel and First Reading, we see the Apostles fulfilling this mission with powers only God possesses—the power to forgive sins and to work “signs and wonders,” a biblical expression only used to describe the mighty works of God (see Exodus 7:3; 11:10; Acts 7:36).

Thomas and the others saw “many other signs” after Jesus was raised from the dead. They saw and they believed. They have been given His life, which continues in the Church’s Word and sacraments, so that we who have not seen might inherit His blessings and “have life in His name.”

(Scott Hahn)

GENERAL NEWS

TODAY: Divine Mercy Sunday 2019 – at St. Mary's, 30 Huntly Street, Inverness, from **2.45pm-4.30pm, on Sunday 28 April**. All welcome. The special liturgy for Divine Mercy Sunday is as follows:

- ❖ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/ Adoration
- ❖ Sacrament of Confession
- ❖ Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- ❖ Holy Rosary
- ❖ Veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy

3-5 May: 'Faith in the North: Reviving Cultures' – A Symposium on the connections between Scottish culture – **to be held at Pluscarden Abbey**. The weekend will combine talks, faith, music, and food. Mgr. James MacNeil from Oban will celebrate a **Gaelic Mass on Saturday 4 May at 11.30am**. See the poster on the noticeboards for more details.

Saturday 4 May: Men's Breakfast Club – next meeting will take place in Dingwall from **10.00am to 12 noon, on Saturday 4 May**. The meeting will begin with Mass, followed by breakfast, fellowship, and discussion. All welcome. For more information, please contact Eric Hanna at: erichanna@googlemail.com, or on 07960 340334.

Wednesday 22 May: 'Human Trafficking and Exploitation' Talk. The Inverness Justice and Peace group have invited Alister Bull from Hope for Justice (hopeforjustice.org) to speak in St. Ninian's hall on Wednesday 22 May. He will identify the different types of exploitation that exist and give advice about how to respond appropriately. **Refreshments at 7.00pm, for a 7.30pm start**. For more information contact Jill Kent at: jillkent@me.com.

Saturday 25 May: The Moray String Quartet – St. Mary's RC Church, Nairn, invites you to a Fundraising Concert for their Church Hall Renovation. **To be held at Pluscarden Abbey at 3.30pm**. The musical selection includes Pachelbel's Canon and 3 pieces by Gershwin. A retiring collection will be taken at the door; suggested donation: £10. Refreshments at the interval. All welcome.

PARISH NEWS

Sunday 2 June, from 11.00am onwards: St. Ninian's Summer Fete. Why not head along to this special event? Fun for all the family! Home bakes, teas/coffees, burger stalls, bottle stalls, bric-a-brac, and much, much more! **This year, we have been invited to set up our own stalls to help St. Columba's. Would you like to get involved?** All monies raised by our stall(s) will go to our parish! Please speak to Fr. Domenico if you are interested.

Lent and Holy Week are 'now over'; what next? – Several parishioners have asked how they can maintain the spiritual momentum developed during Lent and Holy Week. Here are a few practical tips:

- First and foremost, **PRAY!** If you want to know Jesus better, just like any good friend, you need to spend quality time with him! Why not commit a little time each day (start with 15 minutes), ideally at the same hour and in the same place?

- Consider grounding your life more concretely in the **Eucharist**, the source and summit of the Christian life. Commit to attending **one extra Mass a week**.
- Prepare yourself for Mass by participating regularly in the **Sacrament of Confession** (ideally once a month).
- Cultivate a deeper appreciation and reverence for the Blessed Sacrament by setting aside time for **Eucharistic Adoration** (every Wednesday and Friday at St. Columba's).
- **Spiritual Reading**: why not read a spiritually edifying book? Ask Fr. Domenico for ideas!
- **Holy Scripture**: get to know the development of the early Church, and the work of Peter and Paul, by reading the Acts of the Apostles.
- A good way to strengthen your relationship with the Son is through His Mother! "With the **Rosary**, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of His love." (Pope John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*)

RETURN OF SCIAF WEE BOXES – Please return these boxes to us from Easter Sunday onwards. Every pound you save will help our brothers and sisters around the world to survive and thrive. **WEE BOX PACKS are available in the entrance foyer – please take one home.**

Highland Foodbank – April and May: Your donations help to provide emergency food and support to local people in crisis. During these months, we would be grateful for the following items: * Tins of Vegetables * Cartons of Long Life Fruit Juice * Washing Powder (small) * Shaving Foam / Razors. Please leave them in the plastic box at the front door of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP: the group meets again tomorrow (Monday 29 April), from 9.30am to 11.30am. Why not come along and join in the fun?!

CLEANING TEAM SOS! We need your help! Can you spare about an hour monthly to keep the church clean? We need 3 more helpers to assist those who do the duties at the present time. The cleaning is done Mondays/Tuesdays around NOON or 1.30pm or 4.00pm, if you would like to come on board and give us a hand. Please speak to Don. **Monday 29 April: Shona, Jijy, & Don at 4.00pm.**

"90 Club" – DRAW TODAY! – Good luck if you have a number. You might like to join in: only £2 monthly. There are 3 nice prizes to be won. Ask Don for details.

Next Prize Bingo: FRIDAY 31 MAY! – 'eyes down' at 7.00pm. Family fun for all! A warm welcome awaits you. Items to give as prizes are always needed. The bingo success is all down to the many wonderful items that you hand in; please do keep them coming! Thank you!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Vinnie Walton + Michael Good + Elspeth Angus + Magda Maclean + Laura Johnstone + Kirsteen MacCorquodale +

Anniversaries: + John Prendergast +