



# St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW  
Tel: (01463) 794619 / (01463) 233519  
e-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com  
website: <http://www.stcolumbasculloden.org>  
Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15  
Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12  
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Date	Details	Service	Time
<b>Sunday 28 February</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)</b> <b>(Second Collection: Building Fund)</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel)</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>09.00</b> <b>09.30</b>
Tuesday 1 March	Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent	Mass	19.30
Wednesday 2 March	Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 3 March	Thursday of the Third Week of Lent	* Stations of the Cross * Mass	19.00 19.30
Friday 4 March	Friday of the Third Week of Lent	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
<b>Sunday 6 March</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)</b> <b>(Second Collection: SCIAF)</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel)</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>09.00</b> <b>09.30</b>

## Third Sunday in Lent: Fruits of the Fig

In the Church, we are made children of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - the God who makes known His name and His ways to Moses in today's First Reading.

Mindful of His covenant with Abraham (see Exodus 2:24), God came down to rescue His people from the slave-drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant (see Luke 1:54-55, 72-73), He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction, as today's Psalm tells us.

Paul says in today's Epistle that God's saving deeds in the Exodus were written down for the Church, intended as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink.

Yet the events of the Exodus were also given as a "warning" - that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation.

At any moment, Jesus warns in today's Gospel, we could perish - not as God's punishment for being "greater sinners" - but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits.

Jesus calls us today to "repentance" - not a one-time change of heart, but an ongoing, daily transformation of our lives. We're called to live the life we sing about in today's Psalm - blessing His holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy.

The fig tree in His parable is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (see Jeremiah 8:3; 24:1-10). As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of its repentance (see Luke 3:8).

Lent should be for us like the season of reprieve given to the fig tree, a grace period in which we let "the gardener," Christ, cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity. (Scott Hahn)

### A THOUGHT FOR LENT WITH POPE FRANCIS

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

## GENERAL NEWS

### St Mary's Lenten Catechesis (Talk and Discussion)

- Thursday 3 March: "*Laudato Si'*" of Pope Francis and the Year of Mercy" – Alistair Dutton, SCIAF
- Tuesday 8 March: "Oriental Religious Interface: Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Islam" – Fr Zeljko Pasa
- Tuesday 15 March: "*The Imitation of Christ*: The Royal Road for Holy Week" – Fr James Bell

All talks take place in the Marian Room, at 7.00pm.

**HCPT Indian Restaurant Buffet Night:** Wednesday 2 March from 7.00 pm onwards, in the Cinnamon Restaurant, Milburn Road, Inverness. Indian Buffet Night with Silent Auction, in aid of HCPT Group 29. Very popular – limited tickets available. £20 each. To book, please contact Iona Mackay on 07851 420948.

## PARISH NEWS

### easyfundraising.org.uk

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising a **free donation for St Columba's Church, Culloden?**

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra! It's really simple, all you have to do is:

**1. Join.** Go to the following website: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcolumbasculloden/> and sign up for free.

**2. Shop.** Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

**3. Raise.** After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever! There are **no catches or hidden charges** and St Columba's Church, Culloden will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

**Parish Register Forms: have you filled in yours?!** In order to update our Parish records, could you please fill in one of the Parish Register Forms, which you will find on the table in the entrance foyer, and pop the completed form into the bag beside them. You will see on the reverse that there is the opportunity for you to express your interest(s) in any of the activities and ministries of the Parish. If you would like to become more involved in the Parish, please do indicate this on the form, and/or speak to Fr Domenico. Your assistance in building up our Parish is gratefully appreciated!

### HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

**Palm Sunday** (Sun 20 March) – 09.30am Mass.

**Monday of Holy Week** – Retreat at St Mary's, Beaulieu: "Thirsting for Mercy: Journeying with Christ through Holy Week", 11.00am-3.00pm.

**Tuesday of Holy Week** – 6.30pm Confessions; 7.30pm Mass.

**Wednesday of Holy Week** – 11.00am Mass

**Holy Thursday** – 7.30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday** – 3.00pm: Liturgy of the Passion

**Holy Saturday:** Easter Vigil – 8.30pm

**Easter Sunday** – 9.30am Mass.

**Stations of the Cross: each Thursday evening** during Lent we will pray the **Stations of the Cross, from 7.00pm**, before the Evening Mass.

**Lenten Station Masses:** all Station Masses take place on **Fridays during Lent, beginning at 7.00pm**. A large 24-seater minibus has been pre-booked to allow as many parishioners as possible to attend these pilgrimages to our Lenten Station Masses. Please book your seat(s) by phoning PJ in the office at St Mary's Presbytery, Huntly Street, on (01463) 233519, or filling in the travel list at the back of St Mary's Church. The travel cost is listed after each destination:

4 March	Christ the King, Brora (£12 per person)
11 March	St Martin's, Ullapool (£12 per person) **
18 March	St Mary's, Nairn **

\*\* Please note that the Principal Celebrant at the Ullapool and Nairn Station Masses is Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

**Saturday 5 March – Blooming Youth!** – 'The Mercy of Jesus': for the young and young at heart. A Day for Teenagers and Young Adults at Stratherrick. Talks, conversation, song, prayer, Mass, and quiet time. Car lifts available from St Mary's RC Church, Huntly Street, at 9.30am; return to Huntly Street at 5.00pm. To reserve a place, please contact Fr Domenico at: [stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com](mailto:stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com). Everyone is welcome – please spread the word, and come along!

**FIRS: Thurs 10 March** – guest speaker: Norman Newton, talking on local history.

**Church cleaning:** Monday 29th February, 9.30am – Mary and Don. Anyone else able to help, please come along.

**"90 Club":** draw takes place TODAY. Good luck to all who have a number. Are you paid up to date? You could be a winner if you get one of the few numbers left – only £2.00 monthly; please ask Don.

**Prize Bingo:** NO PRIZE BINGO until the end of April. 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 + Cathy Thomson + Marie Coyle

## GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

**The Secular Franciscan Order** meets at 2.00pm on the Second Saturday of each month at St Columba's, Culloden. Contact Helen MacGilp (01463 792149). **Visit [www.ofsgb.org.uk](http://www.ofsgb.org.uk).**

**Prayer and Praise Group** every Thursday in the Lady Chapel at St Columba's, after the 7.30pm Mass. Call Brian (01463 790255) for details.