



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**28 MAY 2017:
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 1: 12-14

Psalm: Ps 26 (27): 1, 4, 7-8

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 4: 13-16

Gospel: John 17: 1-11

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 28 May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Second Collection: World Communications Day	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 30 May	Tuesday in the Seventh Week of Easter	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 31 May	FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 1 June	Memorial of St Justin Martyr	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 4 June	SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST Second Collection: Day for Life	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

World Communications Day: Letter from Archbishop Tartaglia (President, Bishops' Conference of Scotland)

My dear brothers and sisters, communication is at the heart of all we do. We share information, emotion, ideas and experiences every day. Our faith is based on the communication of God's message to humanity, namely that God is love. It is not a coincidence that St John refers to Jesus as the 'Word' made flesh. (John 1:14). In his message for World Communications Day this year, the Holy Father asks us to focus on our everyday communication. He says: "I would like to encourage everyone to engage in constructive forms of communication that reject prejudice towards others and foster a culture of encounter, helping all of us to view the world around us with realism and trust." It would be easy to see that message directed primarily at "others". But the Holy Father does not address it only to politicians or journalists or webmasters or broadcasters... he directs it to every member of the Church... to you and to me. An examination of conscience is called for...

- Do I engage with other people constructively?
- Do I reject prejudice? Really reject it? Not tolerating it even a little?
- Do I try to promote encounter and dialogue? How?
- Do I help others to see the world with realism and trust?

Such questions can be used in our own private examination of conscience. But they should also be considered in a wider context. In the family, the workplace, the friendship group, online... Here in Scotland, we live in tumultuous times. All around us old certainties seem to be crumbling. This is true both socially and politically. As Catholics we cannot be spectators at the dramas facing wider society. We are called – Jesus does not grant exceptions to this – we are called individually and as a Church to be active in shaping our culture for the better. One of the most important ways the

Church tries to do this is through its engagement with the media – both the traditional means of newspapers, radio and TV, and through the web-based media. In recent years, the Church has used social media to communicate ever more effectively both to those within the Church and to those beyond its formal membership. It would be good if every person reading this message made the resolution to sign up to receive the Church's communications via social media [*see overleaf*]. Never in history has it been easier for Catholics to keep up with the activities, homilies and addresses of the Holy Father and of the bishops; to find out what's happening locally; and to share information about new initiatives or inspiring words and thoughts.

Today is the one and only time in the year when I ask you to help finance this essential work. The Church needs to be present in the life of our society and She communicates largely through the various forms of media. Please help us to keep our presence strong and effective by supporting today's second collection for Communications Sunday and for the work of our Scottish Catholic Media Office, which does such a professional job of representing the Church in a challenging media context and with moderate resources. In all of this, let us act with hope and trust. As Pope Francis reminds us: "Confidence in the seed of God's Kingdom and in the mystery of Easter should shape the way we communicate. This confidence enables us to carry out our work – in all the different ways that communication takes place nowadays – with the conviction that it is possible to recognise and highlight the good news present in every story and in the face of each person." – *"To recognise and highlight the good news present in every story and in the face of each person."* That is how the Catholic Christian should communicate. Let us put that resolution into practice.

GENERAL NEWS

Tuesday 6 June: Gabriel Society Meeting in the Marian Room, at St Mary's, Inverness, at 7.30pm – **"St Paul: Model for Mission"**.

Tuesday 6 – Thursday 8 June: 2017 Pluscarden Pentecost Lectures at Pluscarden Abbey: *"Gnosis and the Theocrats from Mars"* – four talks by Dr Francesca Murphy (Notre Dame), as follows:

- Tuesday 6 June at 3.00 pm
- Wednesday 7 June at 10.30 am; then at 3.00 pm
- Thursday 8 June at 10.30 am

All talks will take place in the St Scholastica's Retreat House, just outside the Main Gate of Pluscarden. See the poster on the notice board for full details.

Saturday 24 June: Day of Renewal at Stratherrick: "In the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary".

Come and join us from 10.00am onwards:

- ❖ Morning Prayer
- ❖ Recollection
- ❖ Rosary Procession
- ❖ Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Highlands
- ❖ Lunch with BBQ
- ❖ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with healing prayers and anointing with the balm of mercy
- ❖ Benediction
- ❖ Tea and depart.

All welcome! See you there!

PARISH NEWS

Construction work at St Columba's – We have concluded the sale of the plot of land at the bottom of the car park, upon which will be built a children's nursery. Hopefully, we will also begin work on the Parish House next month. During this period of ongoing construction – which should last until December – I would ask you to take extra care. There will obviously be fencing and other Health & Safety measures, but please make sure that the children avoid this area, so that they do not hurt themselves.

Links to Catholic News Websites: Here are just a few websites: please see the St Columba's 'links' webpage for more examples:

<http://www.scmo.org/> Scottish Catholic Media Office

<https://zenit.org/> - ZENIT Catholic news agency

<http://www.news.va/en> - Vatican News Site

<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino.html> – Holy See Press Office: Daily Bulletin

SCIAF Wee Box Appeal: if you have any Wee Boxes, could you please return them to the parish? Don't forget to fill in the Gift Aid details! Thanks!

Saturday 3 June: "Come Down, O Love Divine – Living Our Faith with and in the Holy Spirit". A Day of Recollection and Renewal at St Columba's, from 10.00 am. See our poster!

Sunday 4 June: Solemnity of Pentecost – we are planning our Pentecost Mass, with contributions from different members of the Parish, in different languages! If you would like to get involved, please see Fr Domenico.

Saturday 10 June: Parish Feast of St Columba! We will celebrate our parish patronal feast on Saturday 10 June (as opposed to 9 June!), with a Mass at 12 noon, followed by a family barbecue/picnic on our patio area. Chefs wanted!! Please see the poster, and the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

Wednesday 21 June onwards, at 7.00pm: Living Faith Scripture Course: "From Genesis to Jesus – Unlocking the Bible" – What is the Bible, where does it come from and what is its purpose? How are Catholics supposed to read the Bible and what story does it have to tell? These are just a few of the questions we consider. We start with the creation story, and trace the history of salvation as it unfolds in the series of covenants that God makes with His chosen people - from Abraham and the twelve tribes of Israel to Moses and finally to King David. We see how this history reaches its climax and fulfilment in Jesus and the Church. This informal course will give an overview of the Old and New Testaments, and will take the form of visual presentations, with discussion and Bible reading! Come and join us! All welcome!

Cleaning Team: Margaret and Marie (Nairn). Extra help is needed in cleaning our church. Can you offer just one hour a week? See Don for details.

"90 Club": DRAW TODAY AFTER MASS! – SUNDAY 28 MAY. Good luck to all who have a number. Would you like to be a winner?! There are numbers still available; only £2 monthly. See Don for details.

PRIZE BINGO: NEXT EYES DOWN FRIDAY 30 JUNE! There will be a break over the months of July and August. Our prize box is getting very low – items to give as prizes are much needed (chocolates, wine, toiletries, stationery, or any item you would like to win)! Can you help? Many thanks for your continued support of this parish fundraiser!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia and John Drew + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Lachlan MacNeil + Rose Corbett + Frances Boyle + Laura MacIntyre

Recently Departed: + Eilidh MacLeod + Brian Murray