



St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW

Tel: (01463) 794619 / (01463) 233519

E-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com

Website: www.stcolumbasculloden.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden

Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**29 APRIL 2018:
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 9: 26-31

Psalm: Ps 21 (22): 26-28, 30-32

2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 18-24

Gospel: John 15: 1-8

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 29 April	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 1 May	NO MASS	—	—
Wednesday 2 May	NO MASS	—	—
Thursday 3 May	NO MASS	—	—
Sunday 6 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter: The Shepherd's Voice

Today's Gospel shows us Jesus during the Last Supper, in the moment He knows His death is close at hand. His 'hour' has come. For it is the last time He is with His disciples, and now He wants to impress firmly a fundamental truth in their minds: even when He will no longer be physically present in the midst of them, they will still be able to remain *united to Him in a new way*, and thus bear much fruit. Everyone can be united to Jesus in a new way. If, on the contrary, one should lose this unity with Him, this union with Him, would become sterile, or rather, harmful to the community. And to express this reality, this new way of being united to Him, Jesus uses the image of the vine and the branches: Just "as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:4-5). With this image He teaches us how to abide Him, to be united to Him, even though He is not physically present.

Jesus is the vine, and through Him — like the sap in the tree — the *very love of God, the Holy Spirit* is passed to the branches. Look: we are the branches, and through this parable, Jesus wants us to understand the importance of remaining united to him. The branches are not self-sufficient, but depend totally on the vine, in which the source of their life is found. So it is with us Christians. Grafted by Baptism in Christ, we have freely received the gift of new life from Him; and thanks to the Church we are able to remain in vital communion with Christ. We must remain faithful to Baptism, and grow in intimacy with the Lord through prayer, listening and docility to His Word —

read the Gospel —, participation in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

When one is intimately united to Jesus, he enjoys the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are — as St Paul tells us — "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22). These are the gifts that we receive if we remain united in Jesus; and therefore a person who is so united in Him does so much good for neighbour and society, is a Christian person. In fact, one is recognised as a true Christian by this attitude, as a tree is recognised by its fruit. The fruits of this profound union with Christ are wonderful: our whole person is transformed by the grace of the Spirit: soul, understanding, will, affections, and even body, because we are united body and soul. We receive a new way of being, the life of Christ becomes our own: we are able to think like Him, to act like Him, to see the world and the things in it with the eyes of Jesus. And so we are able to love our brothers, beginning with the poorest and those who suffer the most, as He did and love them with His heart, and so bear fruits of goodness, of charity, and of peace in the world.

Each one of us is a branch of the one vine; and all of us together are called to bear the fruits of this common membership in Christ and in the Church. Let us entrust ourselves to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, so that we might be able to be living branches in the Church and witness to our faith in a consistent manner — consistency of one's own life and thought, of life and faith — knowing that all of us, according to our particular vocations, participate in the one saving mission of Christ. (Pope Francis, 3/5/15)

GENERAL NEWS

TODAY (29 APRIL): ROSARY ON THE COAST – For Faith, Life and Peace in the British Isles. Why not join us as we implore the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary, through the Rosary, for peace and life in our country? In Inverness, the venue is the Caledonian Canal at Clachnaharry (Sea Loch Basin). The Meeting Point is at Muirtown Canal Bridge (IV3 8LY) at 1.30pm; we will walk to the Sea Loch Basin at Clachnaharry and begin prayers at 2.00pm. For further information, please see the website: <https://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk/>

Monday 7 May 2018: PILGRIMAGE TO CRAIG LODGE – a one-day Pilgrimage to Craig Lodge, Dalmally, on Monday, 7 May, 2018. The Coach will leave from St Mary's, Beaulay, at 7:30am, arriving at about 10:30am and leaving Dalmally at 4:30pm and returning at about 7:30pm. We will have about 6 hours for Holy Mass, prayers, lunch (packed lunch), free time, walk and devotions. The cost for the Coach is £20 per person. Contact Fr Maximilian Nwosu at St Mary's, Beaulay: stmarysbeaulay@btinternet.com / tel. 01463 782232.

22nd–24th May 2018: Pluscarden Pentecost Lectures – “You Have Come to Mount Sion”: The Christian Pilgrimage in the Letter to the Hebrews. Four talks by Fr. Richard Ounsworth OP, which are as follows:

Tuesday 22nd May at 3.00pm: “Potato Stamps: Reading the Old Testament in the Light of Christ”.

Wednesday 23rd May at 10.30am: “Jesus is Joshua: What’s in a Name?”

Wednesday 23rd May at 3.00pm: “Passing Through the Veil: Christ the High Priest and the Day of Atonement

Thursday 24 May at 10.30am: “Robed in Flesh, Our Great High Priest”

There is no charge for these lectures, and all are welcome to attend. To register for the talks, make further enquiries, or book accommodation, contact Pluscarden Abbey, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8UA. Please e-mail: guestmaster@pluscardenabbey.org. See the poster on the front page of our parish website.



**Real men make time for their Mother – do you?
Why not pray the Rosary each day
during the Marian month of May?**

PARISH NEWS

Welcome to today's Celebrant, Fr Andrzej Niski! – Fr Domenico is taking time out, to be with his mother, who is seriously ill. Please keep them in your prayers.

SATURDAY 9 JUNE: DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY MASS, ON THE FEAST OF ST COLUMBA! – A date for your diaries! Bishop Hugh has been invited to celebrate this Mass for us, together with the priests who were in attendance 10 years ago, at the Dedication of the Church. Come and join us for this important parish celebration. We will need to think about: catering (buffet); readers; servers.. Please be prepared to offer your services to make this a truly memorable celebration! More details to follow!

THANK YOU! to the extremely generous benefactor who made a recent Gift Aid donation to our Building Fund of £5,000 !! Because the donation was Gift Aided, the parish can claim an extra 25 % back from HMRC, **giving us a total of £6,250 !!** Wonderful!

Pope Francis' new document “Gaudete et Exsultate” (“Rejoice and be glad”) – the Apostolic Exhortation on Holiness – should now be available for purchase in the entrance foyer. It is very readable, and relevant to all of us; why not pick up a copy? If there is sufficient interest, we will organise a reading group to discuss it together!

Wednesday 23 May: “The Claim: Archbishop Romero, his people, and Pope Francis” – SCIAF and the Justice & Peace Group will be hosting this film, which highlights the life of Blessed Oscar Romero, the El Salvadorian archbishop who will be canonised in October. Please join us in the **Marian Room, 32 Huntly Street (next to St Mary's Inverness). Refreshments at 6.30pm, for a 7.00pm start.**

Cleaning Team: Monday 30th April, at 4.00pm – Shona, Gigi, and Don, and anyone else who would like to come along. Can you help? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

TODAY: “90 Club” Draw after Mass – Are you paid up to date? Good luck to all who have a number; only £2 monthly. See Don.

Next Prize Bingo: FRIDAY, 25 MAY – ‘eyes down’ at 7.00pm. Family fun for all! A warm welcome awaits you. Items to give as prizes are always needed. Thank you!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia & John Drew + Peter Simpson + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean + Ellen Williams + Eva Zandre +

Anniversaries: + Des Coleman + John Prendergast +