



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

### 29 JANUARY 2017: FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13

Psalm: Ps 145 (146): 6-10

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 29 January	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 31 January	Memorial of St John Bosco	Evening Prayer Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 1 February	Wednesday of Week 4 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 2 February	FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 5 February 2017	FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: "The Blessed Path"

In the readings since Christmas, Jesus has been revealed as the new royal son of David and Son of God. He is sent to lead a new exodus that brings Israel out of captivity to the nations and brings all the nations to God.

As Moses led Israel from Egypt through the sea to give them God's law on Mount Sinai, Jesus too has passed through the waters in baptism. Now, in today's Gospel, He goes to the mountain to proclaim a new law—the law of His Kingdom.

The Beatitudes mark the fulfilment of God's covenant promise to Abraham—that through his descendants all the nations of the world would receive God's blessings (see Genesis 12:3; 22:18). Jesus is the son of Abraham (see Matthew 1:1). And through the wisdom He speaks today, He bestows the Father's blessings upon "the poor in spirit."

God has chosen to bless the weak and lowly, those foolish and despised in the eyes of the world, writes St Paul. The poor in spirit are those who know that nothing they do can merit God's mercy and grace. These are the humble remnant in today's First Reading — taught to seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

The Beatitudes reveal the divine path and purpose for our lives. All our striving should be for these virtues—to be poor in spirit; meek and clean of heart; merciful and makers of peace; seekers of the righteousness that comes from living by the law of Kingdom.

The path the Lord sets before us today is one of trials and persecution. But He promises comfort in our mourning and a great reward.

The Kingdom we have inherited is no earthly territory, but the promised land of Heaven. It is Zion where the Lord reigns forever. And, as we sing in today's Psalm, its blessings are for those whose hope is in the Lord. (Scott Hahn)

### Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"We need to build up society in the light of the Beatitudes, walking towards the Kingdom with the least among us."

## GENERAL NEWS

**The Justice and Peace Group** will be meeting again on **Wednesday 1st February, at 7.30 pm**. Donna Morris from SCIAF will be speaking about the 'Rediscovering Mercy' programme, which has been delivered successfully around Scotland. The meeting begins at 7.30 pm at the Olive Grove cafe in the Crown area of Inverness. New members are warmly welcomed.

### **Lent Station Masses 2017 (Fridays, beginning at 7.00pm)**

3 March St Ninian's, Inverness  
10 March St Mary's, Inverness  
17 March Our Lady & St Bean, Marydale  
24 March St Vincent's, Tain \*  
**31 March St Columba's, Culloden**  
7 April St Anne's, Thurso

\* Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.  
In addition, **Bishop Hugh will dedicate the new outdoor altar at Stratherrick, at 12 noon on Saturday 25 March.**

### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Orkney: 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Martyrdom of St Magnus – 28th to 30th July 2017.**

A weekend of talks, visits to the island of Egilsay and Birsay, and the celebration of Mass in St Magnus Cathedral. See the poster in the foyer. Those interested in attending should go to [www.magnus900.co.uk](http://www.magnus900.co.uk) for further details. Updates will be posted on the Diocesan website. Please note that pilgrims will need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, and [www.visitororkney.com](http://www.visitororkney.com) provides a valuable guide for visitors.

## PARISH NEWS

**"Thank you!" from Mary's Meals:** "Dear Father, on behalf of everyone at Mary's Meals, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks **for your recent donation of £1,125.00**. We are so grateful for your support. Every donation to Mary's Meals, large or small, goes a long way to helping us reach more children with a nutritious daily meal in their place of education. We are delighted to be able to say **we are now feeding 1,187,104 children** – a figure which is a true testament to the many, many acts of kindness from donors all over the world. Together we are making child hunger a thing of the past. [...] Thank you for giving this precious gift. Yours sincerely, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Chief Executive, Mary's Meals". For the full text of the letter, see the noticeboard in the foyer.

### **Easyfundraising: £ 181.64 and counting!**

Thus far, we have raised **£ 181.64 for the Parish!** This amount has been raised by **only 12 supporters – at no extra cost to themselves** – by shopping online via the 'Easyfundraising' website. Why not join them? It's easy, and free!

1. Go online to the following website and join for free: [www.easyfundraising.co.uk/causes/stcolumbasculloden/](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk/causes/stcolumbasculloden/)
2. Every time you shop online, go to [easyfundraising.co.uk](http://easyfundraising.co.uk) first, to find the site you want, and then start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the 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 will be really grateful for your donations!

**NEXT WEEK: "CATHOLICISM" at St Columba's!!**  
**From Wednesday 1 February, at 7.00 pm onwards**, and throughout Lent, we will be journeying around the world, deep into our Catholic Faith. With creator and host Bishop Robert Barron, you will learn *what* Catholics believe and *why*, while being immersed in the art, architecture, literature, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition. The "CATHOLICISM" Faith Formation Programme brings the beauty, goodness and truth of the Church to life so that you can better understand and share your faith. This study programme is open to everyone, regardless of age and parish! Book your place on Wednesdays in Lent now!

**Saturday 11 February: Celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes at Stratherrick! A Day of Pilgrimage for Healing** – at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Stratherrick (Postcode: IV2 6UL). The programme is as follows:

10.00am: Arrival, tea/coffee, registration  
10.35am: Praise and Thanksgiving  
10.45am: Exposition and Meditation  
11.30am: Rosary Walk to the Shrine of Our Lady  
12.30pm: Mass, with the Laying on of Hands, and Anointing with the Balm of Mercy  
Lunch  
1.30pm: Address and Exposition  
2.30pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
3.00pm: Litany of Our Lady and Meditation  
3.15pm: Vespers and Benediction  
3.45pm: Tea and Departure

### **Parish Pilgrimages led by Fr Domenico in 2017 & 2018:**

Several parishioners have asked about the possibility of a Pilgrimage to **Rome in late September/October of 2017**, with a trip to **the Holy Land in November 2018**, to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of our church. Are YOU interested? We would need at least 12 people to make the pilgrimage feasible. Please speak to Fr Domenico! If you would like details about a recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land, go to our parish website, and read the account at: <http://www.stcolumbasculloden.org/pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-9-16-january-2017.html>.

**Cleaning Team:** Tuesday 31st January – Mary and Marie.

**"90 Club" draw after Mass today. Good luck to all who have a number. Fees are now due** for those who pay in advance; please check with Don. There are some numbers still left – only £2 a month.

**Prize Bingo:** Next 'eyes down' on Friday 24th February at 7.00 pm. Our supply of prizes is very low; can you help? (toiletries, chocolates, wine/spirits, anything else you would like to win yourself!) Many thanks for your generosity.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Leslie Murray + Jane Green + Frances Boyle + Ewen Macdonald Snr + Brian Murray + Lachlan MacNeil

**Anniversaries:** Amie Greaves + Maureen Campbell + George Duncan + JoJo Giubarelli +