



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

29TH MAY 2016
SOLEMNITY OF THE
BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 14: 18-20
Psalm: Ps 109: 1-4
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26
Gospel: Luke 9: 11-17

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 29 May	SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Second Collection: Day for Life)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 31 May	Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 1 June	Memorial of St Justin, Martyr	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 2 June	Thursday in the Ninth Week of the Year	Mass	7.30pm
Sunday 5 June	Tenth Sunday of the Year (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Blessed and Broken: Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

At the dawn of salvation history, God revealed our future in figures. That's what's going on in today's First Reading: A king and high priest comes from Jerusalem (see Psalm 76:3), offering bread and wine to celebrate the victory of God's beloved servant, Abram, over his foes.

By his offering, Melchizedek bestows God's blessings on Abram. He is showing us, too, how one day we will receive God's blessings and in turn "bless God" — how we will give thanks to Him for delivering us from our enemies, sin and death.

As Paul recalls in today's Second Reading, Jesus transformed the sign of bread and wine, making it a sign of His body and blood, through which God bestows upon us the blessings of His "new covenant." Jesus is "the priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek," that God, in today's Psalm, swears will rule from Zion, the new Jerusalem (see Hebrews 6:20-7:3).

By the miracle of loaves and fishes, Jesus in today's Gospel, again prefigures the blessings of the Eucharist. Notice that He takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to the Twelve. You find the precise order and words in the Last Supper (see Luke 22:19) and in His celebration of the Eucharist on the first Easter night (see Luke 24:30).

The Eucharist fulfils the offering of Melchizedek. It is the daily miracle of the heavenly high priesthood of Jesus. It is a priesthood He conferred upon the Apostles in ordering them to feed the crowd, in filling exactly twelve baskets with leftover bread — in commanding them on the night He was handed over: "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Through His priests He still feeds us in "the deserted place" of our earthly exile. And by this sign He pledges to us a glory yet to come. For as often as we share in His body and blood, we proclaim His victory over death, until He comes again to make His victory our own. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"The Eucharist is the sacrament of communion, which brings us out from individualism to live together on our journey in His footsteps, our faith in Him. We ought, therefore, to ask ourselves before the Lord: How do I live the Eucharist? Do I live it anonymously or as a moment of true communion with the Lord, [and] also with many brothers and sisters who share this same table? How are our Eucharistic celebrations?"

GENERAL NEWS

Inverness Justice and Peace Group: meets on **Wednesday 1st June at 7.30pm** in 'The Olive Grove Cafe', in the Crown. The topic for discussion will be the EU referendum in the context of justice and peace.

Saturday Night Dance Party, 11 June: the Polish Fundraising Group are holding a Saturday Night Dance Party on **11 June, from 7.00pm to 1.00am (!)** in St Mary's Church Hall, Huntly Street, with a Lottery at 10.00pm. Entertainment will be provided by 'The Brothers Band', and by the all-female singing group 'The Voices'. Tickets, priced at £10 each, are available from PJ in St Mary's parish office; call him on 01463 233519, or e-mail: stmarysinverness@btinternet.com.

PARISH NEWS

Our Special Collection: 'Day for Life 2016'

'Day for Life' is celebrated yearly by the Catholic Church in the UK and Ireland. It is a Day dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life, from the very moment of conception until the moment of natural death.

The annual *Day for Life* collection helps fund the crucial work of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, formerly the Linacre Centre, as well as projects which work to protect life at every stage and every condition. The Anscombe Bioethics Centre is a Roman Catholic academic institute that engages with the moral questions arising in clinical practice and biomedical research. It brings to bear on those questions principles of natural law, virtue ethics, and the teaching of the Catholic Church, and seeks to develop the implications of that teaching for emerging fields of practice.

The Centre engages in scholarly dialogue with academics and practitioners of other traditions. It contributes to public policy debates as well as to debates and consultations within the Church. It runs educational programmes for, and gives advice to, Catholics and other interested healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists. For further details, visit the website: www.bioethics.org.uk.

"The Spiritual Works of Mercy: Part 2": our reflections on the Spiritual Works of Mercy continue **at St Columba's on Wednesday 1 June, beginning at 7.00pm**. The format will be as follows: a short talk, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, some quiet time, and concluding with Benediction. Come and join us!

FIRS (Friends in Retirement): the group will meet on **Thursday 9 June, at 2.00pm**. The Guest Speaker is Anne Watts, who will give a presentation on Soroptomists International (a global volunteer organisation, which works to improve the lives of women and girls through programmes leading to social and economic empowerment). As it is the last meeting of this Session, there will also be a 'strawberry tea and blether'. All welcome!

FEAST OF ST COLUMBA, THURSDAY 9 JUNE: there is lot to celebrate this year – the Feast-Day of our Parish Patron Saint, the first anniversary of your Parish Priest here at St Columba's (...and the fifth anniversary of his Priesthood!). After the Mass, we will have a Summer Picnic 'al fresco' on the patio (weather permitting!). **We are looking for volunteers to help with the moving of tables, setting out the food, etc.,** and we ask that you **bring along**

something to share and eat with others in a fraternal Parish festive meal. **PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET in the entrance foyer.**

CALLING ALL TEENAGERS!! 'Power of Grace', Saturday 11 June: A day retreat for **teens aged 12-16**, organised by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia. The event will be held **at Greyfriars' Convent, Elgin, from 11.00am to 6.00pm**. Come and experience the power of your Confirmation during this day of fun, fellowship, and prayer. **The event is free, but registration is required. The necessary forms are available on the parish website.** Fr Domenico will be participating in the day's activities; please speak to him, or e-mail the Sisters at: dominican.sisters@dioceseofaberdeen.org. Car-sharing can be arranged. **Parents: please do encourage your youngsters to come along to this fun-filled day!**

Congratulations! – to Logan and Iobe, who have been formally enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen. This is an International Organisation of Altar Servers, founded in 1904. Please keep Logan and Iobe in your prayers.

NB. Any child who has made his or her First Holy Communion is eligible to serve at the Altar. Full training is given. Please speak to Fr Domenico.

Gratuluję wam! – Congratulations also to Michal Jakub Smielak, who will be baptised at St Columba's today (Sunday 29 May, at 1.00pm). May the spiritual life of Michal, and of his parents – Katarzyna and Szymon – be truly blessed, and filled with grace and peace.

Reconciliation and Holy Communion classes:

Thursdays, 5.30pm-6.00pm.

Meetings on: 2, 9, 16, 23 June.

Confirmation classes:

Thursdays, 6.30pm-7.15pm.

Meetings on: 2 & 16 June.

Church cleaning – Wednesday at 12.30pm: Marie (Nairn), Margaret, and Don. Additional help is always appreciated!

"90 Club" – DRAW TODAY!! SUNDAY 29th MAY, AFTER MASS. Good luck to all who have a number. There are a few numbers still available; ask Don for information.

PRIZE BINGO: 'eyes down' on Friday 24 June, at 7.00pm. The Prize supply box is rather low; items to give as prizes are always required. Thank to everyone for the wonderful items we receive. Your generosity is appreciated. NB. Friday 24 June will be our last Prize Bingo night before the Summer break; we return again in September, on the first Friday of the month, and thereafter until December.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray +

Anniversaries: + Canon Duncan Stone +