



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**2 APRIL 2017:  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
YEAR A**

## Sunday Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Psalm: Ps 129 (130)

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8: 8-11

Gospel: John 11: 1-45

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 2 April	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Second Collection: Building Fund	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>
Tuesday 4 April	Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent	Evening Prayer Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 5 April	Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 6 April	<b>DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS, WITH BISHOP HUGH GILBERT, OSB</b>	<b>ST MARY'S, 30 HUNTLY STREET</b> *** NO MASS AT ST COLUMBA'S ***	6.30 pm
Sunday 9 April	<b>PALM / PASSION SUNDAY</b> Second Collection: Building Fund	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available 30 minutes before EVERY Mass.**

### Fifth Sunday of Lent: At Lazarus' Tomb

As we draw near to the end of Lent, today's Gospel clearly has Jesus' Passion and death in view.

That's why John gives us the detail about Lazarus' sister, Mary—that she is the one who anointed the Lord for burial (see John 12:3,7). His disciples warn against returning to Judea; Thomas even predicts they will “die with Him” if they go back.

When Lazarus is raised, John notices the stone in front of the tomb being taken away, as well as Lazarus' burial cloths and head covering—all details he later notices with Jesus' empty tomb (see John 20:1,6,7).

Like the blind man in last week's readings, Lazarus represents all of humanity. He stands for “dead man”—for all those Jesus loves and wants to liberate from the bands of sin and death.

John even recalls the blind man in his account today (see John 11:37). Like the man's birth in blindness, Lazarus' death is used by Jesus to reveal “the glory of God” (see John 9:3). And again like last week, Jesus' words and deeds give sight to those who believe (see John 11:40).

If we believe, we will see — that Jesus loves each of us as He loved Lazarus, that He calls us out of death and into new life.

By His Resurrection, Jesus has fulfilled Ezekiel's promise in today's First Reading. He has opened the

graves that we may rise, put His Spirit in us that we may live. This is the Spirit that Paul writes of in today's Second Reading. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to we who were once dead in sin.

Faith is the key. If we believe as Martha does in today's Gospel — that Jesus is the resurrection and the life — even if we die, we will live.

“I have promised and I will do it,” the Father assures us in the First Reading. We must trust in His word, as we sing in today's Psalm—that with Him is forgiveness and salvation. (Scott Hahn)

### Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

Jesus' act of raising Lazarus shows the extent to which the power of God's grace can go, and, thus, the extent of our conversion, our transformation. .. there is no limit to the divine mercy offered to everyone! .. The Lord is always ready to remove the tombstone of our sins, which keep us apart from him, the light of the living. (*Angelus*, 6 April 2014)

## GENERAL NEWS

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

7 April: St Anne's, Thurso

**Tuesday 4 April, 7.00pm, in the Marian Room, Huntly Street: "The Passion" – Illustrations, Meditations, Reflections, and Discussion** – with Fr James and Fr Andrzej. At 9.00pm, there will be buns, tea, and other refreshments. Join us!

**DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS: Thursday 6 April at 6.30pm, at St Mary's Inverness.** Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

## PARISH NEWS

**CONGRATULATIONS!** to all of you who contributed in any way to our Station Mass at St Columba's. It was a wonderful Mass, and the evening was enhanced by a delicious buffet. So many people played a part in making this a successful evening – you should be rightly proud! Thank you most sincerely for your support of the parish!

**THANK YOU!** – to our extremely kind donor who made a very generous contribution of £600.00, for our Building Fund! May the Good Lord bless your generosity and thoughtfulness! We have also received other generous Gift Aid donations to the parish recently, which – if you are a UK taxpayer – will allow us to reclaim an extra 25%!

**HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES:** please see the leaflets in the foyer, and the parish website.

**CATHOLICISM – Wednesday 5 April, from 7.00pm – "A Vast Company Of Witnesses: The Communion Of Saints"**. The story of the Church is told in the examples of those men and women who dedicated their lives to knowing and serving Jesus Christ. The Catholic Faith is made visible in real human lives. Bishop Barron gives consideration to some of the Church's greatest heroes, and demonstrates how their extraordinary examples display both the passion and creative potential of the Catholic Church. Highlighting Katharine Drexel, Therese of Lisieux, Edith Stein, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Bishop Barron tells the story of the Church as a vast company of witness who are called by Christ to be a Communion of Saints.

**"Behold the Lamb of God: Reflections for Holy Week":** a Day of Recollection at St Columba's, on **Saturday 8 April, from 10.30am-4.00pm.**

The programme is as follows:

10.30am: Welcome and Introduction  
10.45am: First Presentation  
11.30am: Quiet Time for Reflection  
11.45am: Rosary and Angelus  
12 noon: Holy Mass  
12.45pm: 'Pot Luck Lunch' (bring something to share with others!)

2.00pm: Second Presentation  
2.45pm: Quiet Time for Reflection  
3.00pm: Penitential Service with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunities for Confession.  
Benediction and the Divine Praises.

**Cleaning Team:** Monday 3 April at 9.30am: Margaret and Marie.

**GRAND EASTER RAFFLE!** – Drawn on Easter Sunday. £1.00 for a strip of five tickets. Please include your name and phone number on the back! Come and have a go!

**"90 Club"** – Winners for March – No. 56: John; No. 44: Annmarie; No. 88: Charlotte. Next Draw: Sunday 30th April. Good luck to everyone who has a ticket. There are a few still left; only £2 per month! 3 prizes to be won. See Don for details.

**PRIZE BINGO:** Another successful evening last Friday – £317.00 was banked. Many thanks to all who donate items to give as prizes; your continued support is very much appreciated. Without your help, we would not be so well supported by the local community. Thank you!

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Leslie Murray + Frances Boyle + Ewen Macdonald Snr + Brian Murray + Lachlan MacNeil + Louisa and Suzanne Williams + Cath Maclean + Eilidh McPherson + Morag Macintyre

**Anniversaries:** + Derek Reid + Eleanor Bonger + Steven Gallagher + Velma Batty + Margaret Miller