



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**30 APRIL 2017:
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Psalm: Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 30 April	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 2 May	St Athanasius - Memorial	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 3 May	St Philip and St James – Feast <i>~ 40th Anniversary of the Episcopal Consecration of Mario Conti as Bishop of Aberdeen (1977) ~</i>	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 4 May	Thursday in the Third Week of Easter	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 7 May	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>~ World Day of Prayer for Vocations ~</i> Second Collection: Seminarians' Bursary Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

An Exercise in Imaginative Prayer: "A Meeting on the Road to Emmaus"

It's a long walk home from Jerusalem, but you're glad for the exertion. The physical work of walking might ease, just slightly, the harder work that's going on inside you today.

It is the work of grief. You lost a friend just a few days ago. Not only a friend, but your leader, your beloved teacher. And he didn't simply die; he was executed in the most torturous, shameful way. You've seen a lot in your lifetime, but the memories of Jesus' ordeal are forever branded into your memory. You close your eyes and see blood; you go to sleep but dream about someone suspended, gasping for air.

At least your friend is with you — both of you followed the teacher, with equal conviction and enthusiasm. So you bear your grief together now. As you walk and walk through the long, rainy afternoon, you encourage better memories—of all that the teacher said, of the people you know whom Jesus healed. You can't seem to stop talking, although several times one or both of you must stop talking because you must cry for a while.

The stranger joins you while you are still several miles from home. Within moments, it's clear that this person has no idea what has been going on in Jerusalem. With great heaviness and some annoyance, you fill in the barest details for him. All you have to say is

"crucifixion" and anyone in Roman territories knows exactly what you're talking about.

But the stranger engages in the conversation with great energy. He must be some kind of teacher, because he launches into an explanation of how Jesus' fate is actually a good thing and the proper fulfilment of what was predicted long ago. This is fascinating—you and your friend are all ears. Before you know it, you've arrived at your home and it's getting dark.

You invite the stranger to have supper with you and spend the night, rather than risk injury or other misfortune while on the road at night alone. Also you want to hear more of what he has to say. He graciously accepts your offer.

The first thing you do upon entering the house is prepare the evening meal. The three of you sit down to eat. Then the stranger takes the bread and blesses it. You feel a strange energy move through you and hover in the room.

Where have you heard this sort of blessing before?

The stranger hands each of you a piece of the bread. You take it, and memory washes over you — of a hillside with thousands of hungry people. Of a few loaves and fishes being transformed in an instant to miraculous abundance. *(continued overleaf)*

Suddenly, it is clear who this man is, eating at your table. You look into his face.

What do you see? What is his expression? What do you feel? What do you know in the truth of your heart?

Your friend has barely gotten the words out — “Why, it’s the Lord!” — when the stranger vanishes.

The room still feels strangely warm, and there are waves of that energy, like lightning sparking all over the room. You and your friend stare at one another, and finally you say, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he explained the Scriptures? Didn’t we know something even then — we just couldn’t identify it?”

GENERAL NEWS

TODAY: Ordination to the Diaconate of Emmet O’Dowd and Rafal Sweda: please pray for Emmet and Rafal, two of our seminarians, who will be ordained Deacons today in the Pontifical Scots College in Rome. This is the final stage before ordination to the Priesthood. Our two men will finish their studies in June 2018, and will thereafter return to the Diocese for their Priestly Ordination. Please remember all our seminarians in your prayers: Emmet, Rafal, Christopher, Dominic, and Malachy. May the Good Lord continue to send worthy labourers to work in His vineyard!

Wednesday 3 May: Inverness Justice and Peace Group will be meeting on the first Wednesday of the month (**3 May**) in St Ninian’s Parish Hall. The topic will be **‘I was a stranger and you welcomed me’**, exploring what we mean by the term ‘refugees’. New members are warmly welcomed. All enquiries to Jill Kent at: jillkent@me.com.

Saturday 13 May: Our Lady of Fatima – A Day with Our Lady, to celebrate the Centenary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima at **St Mary’s, Inverness**. There will be a full programme of activities – please see next week’s Bulletin for details.

Saturday 20 May: Spring Fair at St Mary’s, Inverness – The Tuesday Craft Group is organising a Spring Fair for Mary’s Meals on Saturday 20th May 2017. From 10:45 am until 12: 30pm. The Group will be showing crafts for the first time and selling them for Mary’s Meals. Have you any wool you want to give away? Please give your wool to the members on Tuesdays in the Marian Room or to any of the Sisters (DDL) at any time. The Group will also welcome any of your knitting, crochets or any crafts that you want to donate for the Sales. Please come and support Mary’s Meals.

You finish your meal — what a healing pleasure to eat the bread blessed by those hands! But then you look at each other and know what you must do. You head back to Jerusalem. You have to tell Jesus’ other followers who are still there in the city.

What is your conversation like on the way back?

What thoughts keep running through your mind on this journey?

How has your perspective changed, now that you have met the resurrected Jesus?

[<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/20005/imaginative-prayer-a-meeting-on-the-road-to-emmaus>]

Sunday 11 June 2017: St Margaret Pilgrimage, Dunfermline. The programme is as follows:

10.00am: Visit the sites associated with St Margaret’s life. 2.00pm: Gather at gates of Pittencrieff Park for procession. 3.00pm: Holy Mass at St Margaret’s Memorial Church. Those interested in attending should go to www.stmargaretsdunfermline.co.uk for further details or contact us by e-mail at: st.margaretdunfermline@gmail.com.

28–30 July 2017: Diocesan Pilgrimage to Orkney:

900th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of St Magnus – See the poster in the foyer. Those interested in attending should go to www.magnus900.co.uk for further details. Please note that pilgrims will need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. www.visitorkney.com.

PARISH NEWS

Cleaning Team: Monday 1st May at 9.30 am: Margaret and Marie (Nairn).

“90 Club” – DRAWN TODAY AFTER MASS!

Good luck to all who have a number! Would you like to join in too? Only £2.00 monthly, with 3 prizes to be won. See Don for details.

NEXT PRIZE BINGO: 26 MAY! Eyes down at

7.00pm. A family fun night, with great company! Come and join us! All monies go towards our Building Fund. Our prize box is getting rather low - items to give as prizes are much needed! Many thanks for your continued support – it is greatly appreciated!

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 + Mary Johnstone + Rose Corbett

Anniversaries: + John Prendergast + Craig Reid + Charles Connochie +