



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**31 MARCH 2019:  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Joshua 5: 9-12  
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33 (34): 2-7  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21  
Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Date	Details	Service	Time
<b>Sunday 31 March</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <b>Second Collection: SCIAF</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>
Tuesday 2 April	Tuesday of Week 4 of Lent Mass Intention: Johnnie Gallagher, RIP	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b> <b>7.00 pm</b> <b>7.30 pm</b>
Wednesday 3 April	Wednesday of Week 4 of Lent Mass Intention: Fr. Boniface Kruger OFM, R.I.P.	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 4 April	Thursday of Week 4 of Lent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation <b>* Stations of the Cross *</b> Mass	6.30 pm <b>7.00 pm</b> 7.30 pm
Friday 5 April	Friday of Week 4 of Lent Mass Intention: Mary McEwan, RIP (Anniversary)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon
Saturday 6 April	Saturday of Week 4 of Lent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.30 am 11.00 am
<b>Sunday 7 April</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

## Fourth Sunday of Lent: Found Alive Again

In today's First Reading, God forgives "the reproach" of the generations who grumbled against Him after the Exodus. On the threshold of the promised land, Israel can with a clean heart celebrate the Passover, the feast of God's firstborn son (see Joshua 5:6-7; Exodus 4:22; 12:12-13).

Reconciliation is also at the heart of the story Jesus tells in today's Gospel. The story of the Prodigal Son is the story of Israel and of the human race. But it is also the story of every believer.

In Baptism, we're given a divine birthright, made "a new creation," as Paul puts it in today's Second Reading. But when we sin, we're like the Prodigal Son, quitting our Father's house, squandering our inheritance in trying to live without Him.

Lost in sin, we cut ourselves off from the grace of sonship lavished upon us in Baptism. It is still possible for us to come to our senses, make our way back to the Father, as the prodigal does.

But only He can remove the reproach and restore the divine sonship we have spurned. Only He can free us from the slavery to sin that causes us—like the Prodigal Son—to see God not as our Father but as our master, One we serve as slaves.

God wants not slaves but children. Like the father in today's Gospel, He longs to call each of us "My son," to share His life with us, to tell us: "Everything I have is yours."

The Father's words of longing and compassion still come to His prodigal children in the Sacrament of Penance. This is part of what Paul today calls "the ministry of reconciliation" entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and the Church.

Reconciled like Israel, we take our place at the table of the Eucharist, the homecoming banquet the Father calls for His lost sons, the new Passover we celebrate this side of heaven. We taste the goodness of the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm, rejoicing that we who were dead are found alive again. (Scott Hahn)

## GENERAL NEWS

**Lenten Station Masses** – the remaining Station Masses for Lent 2019 in our Highland Deanery are as follows:

5 April ..... St. Mary's, Beaully

12 April ..... St. Columba's, Culloden

**Chrism Mass 2018: Thursday 11 April, at St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen.** Mass begins at 6.00pm. All welcome.

## PARISH NEWS

**TODAY – Mother's Day!** – Congratulations and prayers to all our Mothers, for their daily commitment, sacrifices, and love. We have a great selection of gifts at our Piety Stall to celebrate Mother's Day. Why not have a look at our selection, and purchase a gift for the wonderful Mother in your life?!

**Today's Second Collection: SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund)** – Today's Second Collection will be taken up for the work of SCIAF. This year's SCIAF appeal focuses on Uganda and the thousands of vulnerable young people who, with your support, are being helped to create a brighter future for themselves. On this SCIAF Sunday, we especially think of Lydia and her family, who are on the WEE BOX. May their story continue to inspire us in the fight against poverty. Please give what you can to the SCIA collection today.

**SCIAF WEE BOX APPEAL** – Every Lent, the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, thousands of Catholics in Scotland save money in their SCIAF WEE BOX to help give a hand up to people living in poverty. Donations to the WEE BOX have helped people in countries like Uganda where a generation of young people have been left without hope, trapped in extreme poverty. Together we are helping them to be independent, support themselves and their families, and have real hope for the future. By collecting your loose change, or giving up a treat like chocolate or wine and putting what you save into a WEE BOX, you can make a lasting difference to families in some of the world's poorest countries. **WEE BOX PACKS are available in the entrance foyer – please take one home.**

**Weekly Offertory Envelopes:** the envelopes for the new financial year (April onwards) are still available in the entrance foyer.

**“The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross”:**  
**Lenten Reflections at St. Columba's** – The Seven Last ‘Words’ of Jesus Christ from the cross are actually 7 short phrases that Jesus uttered on Calvary. We shall be examining each one of these seven phrases, or ‘words’, throughout Lent, on the following **Wednesday evenings, at 7.00pm:**

3 April – Fourth and Fifth ‘Words’

10 April – Sixth and Seventh ‘Words’

**Stations of the Cross:** each Thursday evening during Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross, from 7.00pm, before the Evening Mass.

**Sacramental Preparation for First Holy Communion in 2019** – classes will take place on **Thursdays at 5.30pm**, lasting for 30 minutes. The remaining class for this term is as follows:

- Thursday 4 April at 5.30pm

First Holy Communions will take place on **Sunday 23 June 9.30am**. If you have any questions please get in touch with Helen.

**BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP:** the group meets on Mondays, from 9.30am to 11.30am. Why not come along and join in the fun?!

**Cleaning Team** – Monday 1st April at 4pm: Shona and Jijy. Would you like to help us in 2019? Helping just one hour a month would lighten the load of others who keep the church nice and clean. See Don for details.

**EASTER BUNNY RAFFLE** – Tickets now on sale in the front hall: £1 per strip of 5 tickets – chocolates and wine to be won also. Name & phone number on the back of the tickets. **DRAWN ON EASTER SUNDAY AFTER MASS.**

**90 CLUB – DRAW TODAY!** – After Mass this morning, good luck all with a number. **YOU MIGHT BE LUCKY IF YOU JOIN IN! £2 MONTHLY; 3 PRIZES WON EVERY MONTH.** Ask Don for details.

**NEXT PRIZE BINGO: Friday 26th April** – thank you for all the wonderful items you donate to give as prizes. We are a little short of items at the moment. Thank you for your support.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Vinnie Walton + Michael Good + Magda Maclean + Evelyn MacGregor + Elspeth Angus +

**R.I.P.:** + Ruby Bell + Deacon Jacques Cooke +

**Anniversaries:** + Eleanor Bonger + Steven Gallagher + Margaret Miller +