



St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW
Tel: (01463) 794619 / (01463) 233519
e-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com
website: <http://www.stcolumbasculloden.org>
Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Dr Helen Macdonald



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

31ST JANUARY 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,
YEAR C

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19
Psalm: Ps 70:1-6. 15. 17
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 31 January	Fourth Sunday of the Year (C) (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Tuesday 2 February	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord	Mass	19.30
Wednesday 3 February	Wednesday in the Fourth Week of the Year	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 4 February	Thursday in the Fourth Week of the Year	Mass	19.30
Friday 5 February	Memorial of St Agatha	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Sunday 7 February	Fifth Sunday of the Year (C) (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available 30 minutes before each Mass.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C – Prophet to the Nations

God's words in today's First Reading point us beyond Jeremiah to Jesus. Like Jeremiah, Jesus was consecrated in the womb and sent as a "prophet to the nations" (see Luke 1:31-33).

Like the prophets before Him, Jesus too faces hostility. In today's Gospel, the crowd in His hometown synagogue quickly turns on Him, apparently demanding a sign, some proof of divine origins - that He's more than just "the son of Joseph."

The sign He gives them is that of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. From their colourful careers, Jesus draws two stories. In each, the prophets bypass "many...in Israel", to bestow God's blessings on non-Israelites who had faith that the prophets were men of God (see 1 Kings 17:1-16; 2 Kings 5:1-14). "None...not one" in Israel was found deserving, Jesus emphasises.

His point isn't lost on His audience. They know He's likening them to the "many...in Israel" in the days of the prophets. That's why they try to push Him off the cliff. As He promised to protect Jeremiah, the Lord delivers Jesus from those who would crush Him.

And as were Elijah and Elisha, Jesus is sent to proclaim God's gift of salvation – not exclusively to one nation or people, but to all who realise in faith that

from the womb God alone is their hope, their rescuer, their "rock of refuge," as we sing in today's Psalm.

Prophecies, Paul tells us in today's Epistle, are partial and pass away "when the perfect comes." In Jesus, the word of the prophets has been brought to perfection, fulfilled in those who have ears to hear, as He declares in today's Gospel.

Greater than the gifts of faith and hope, Jesus shows us how to love as He loved, to love God as our Father, as One Who formed us in the womb and destined us to hear His saving Word.

This is the salvation, the "mighty works of the Lord," that we, just like the Psalmist, are thankful to proclaim daily in the Eucharist. (Scott Hahn)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

"Real love is about loving and letting yourself be loved. It's harder to let yourself be loved than to love. That is why it is so difficult to come to the perfect love of God. We can love Him but we must let ourselves be loved by Him." (Address to young people in Manila, Philippines, 18 January 2015)

GENERAL NEWS

St Mary's, Inverness: The Gabriel Society, 9 February 2016 at 7.30pm. The topic for discussion is the following: **"What Do Catholics Think About Our Lady, Mary?"**. We will look at the place of Our Lady in Scripture, in the Tradition, in the Devotional Life of Christians, and the definition and teaching about Mary as *Theotokos* (God-bearer). We will also consider developments in Marian doctrine such as the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. The aim of the Gabriel Society is to provide a facility for the continuing formation of adults in the Catholic faith and to equip them for mission: to show mission and to evangelise. All are welcome.

PARISH NEWS

Parish Fundraising and Social Events: would you like to see, or to be involved in, more social events at St Columba's? Come along to our **informal gathering in the Meeting Room on Tuesday 16 February, after the 7.30pm Mass**, and get involved in the life of your Parish! Remember: nothing can happen without your enthusiasm and support!

FIRs (Friends in Retirement): next meeting is on 11 February 2016, at 2.00pm. The Guest Speaker in Elsie Normington, from the Elsie Normington Foundation. All welcome.

'Faith in Film' Evenings: February's film is entitled **I Confess** (1953), starring Montgomery Clift, Anne Baxter, and Karl Malden. It will be screened on **Wednesday 17 February, from 7.00pm onwards**. Our film, designed to tie in with our forthcoming Day of Discussion and Reflection on the Sacrament of Confession, is directed by the legendary Alfred Hitchcock (himself a Catholic). The story is a classic suspense, focusing on a Priest who learns of a murder whilst hearing a penitent's Confession. Bound by the Sacramental Seal, the priest is unable to do or say anything, not even when suspicion begins to fall on him.. Certificate PG (92 minutes).

ASH WEDNESDAY: 10 February 2016: Please hand in to the Sacristy any palms from previous years, which we will burn and use to make ash.

Lenten Station Masses: all Station Masses take place on Fridays during Lent, beginning at 7.00pm:

12 February	St Mary's, Inverness
19 February	St Mary's, Beaulieu
26 February	St Joseph's, Invergordon
4 March	Christ the King, Brora
11 March	St Martin's, Ullapool (with Bishop Hugh)
18 March	St Mary's, Nairn (with Bishop Hugh)

These Masses are important occasions for us to share our Catholic faith and heritage with our brothers and sisters in neighbouring parishes and throughout the Highland

Deanery. Please do make an effort to attend as many of these Masses as you can.

Saturday 13 February – Iona Group for Teenagers: Calling all teenagers in the Highland Deanery: the next meeting of the Iona Group will take place at St Columba's on **Saturday afternoon, 12 February, from 5.00pm onwards**. Come along for a relaxing evening, with a good movie, some delicious food, and fine company! The film is entitled **"Heaven is for Real"**, and tells the true story of a small-town father who must find the courage and conviction to share his son Colton's extraordinary life-changing event with the world. Little Colton claims to have visited heaven during a near-death experience; he shares the details of his amazing journey with child-like innocence and speaks matter-of-factly about things that happened before his birth.. things he couldn't possibly know. (Certificate PG, 95 minutes). We will also have a discussion of how you would like this group to develop, and what you would like to help you grow in your faith. Come and join us!

Saturday 27 February – "The Sacrament of Confession: Reconciling Ourselves with Our Merciful Father". This will be a day of discussion and reflection on the Church's 'neglected sacrament', as part of our wider programme of parish initiatives for the Year of Mercy. We will look at its history and development, and discuss some of the reasons for its lack of popularity nowadays. There will also be a presentation on "Confession 'do's and 'don'ts", and a Q&A session. Further details to follow.

Church cleaning: Tuesday 2 February, 10.00am – Mary and Marie Coyle.

"90 Club": DRAW TODAY after Mass. Good luck to all who have a number. You could be a winner if you get one of the few numbers left – only £2.00 monthly; please ask Don.

Prize Bingo: our next Bingo will take place on **FRIDAY, 26 FEBRUARY**. Eyes down 7.00pm. A warm welcome awaits you all! Entry £2.00: raffle and refreshments during the interval. £5.00 for a set of six books + one flyer end game then the main raffle £1 for a strip of six tickets. Thank you to all of you who have handed in items to give out as prizes; we always need these to help make the evening go well and the winners go home happy. Suitable prizes include: gift vouchers, boxed toiletries, chocolates, wine, spirits, etc.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Audrey O'Connell + Anna Black + Leslie Murray + Laura Johnston + Amelia Drew + Cathy Thomson + Ian Angus + Charlotte McPhee

Anniversaries: + Rudi Boa + Amie Greaves + Maureen Campbell + George Duncan +