



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**4 MARCH 2018:  
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 18 (19): 8-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25

Gospel: John 2: 13-25

Date	Details	Service	Time
<b>Sunday 4 March</b>	<b>THIRD 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>
Tuesday 6 March	Tuesday of Week 3 in Lent Mass Offering: Donor's Intentions	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 7 March	Commemoration of Sts Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs Mass Offering: Donor's Intentions	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 8 March	Commemoration of St Duthac, Bishop Mass Offering: Donor's Intentions	Sacrament of Reconciliation * <b>Stations of the Cross</b> * Mass	6.30 pm <b>7.00 pm</b> 7.30 pm
<b>Sunday 11 March</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)</b> <b>Second Collection: SCIAF</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

## Third Sunday of Lent: Cords of Mercy

Today's Gospel presents the episode of the expulsion of the merchants from the temple (Jn 2:13-25). Jesus made "a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple" (Jn 2:15). Such a gesture gave rise to strong impressions in the people and in the disciples. It clearly appeared as a *prophetic gesture*, so much so that some of those present asked Jesus: "What sign have you to show us for doing this?" (v. 18), who are you to do these things? Show us a sign that you have authority to do them. They were seeking a divine and prodigious sign that would confirm that Jesus was sent by God. And He responded: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (v. 19). They replied: "It has taken 46 years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?" (v. 20). They did not understand that the Lord was referring to the *living temple of his body*, that would be destroyed in the death on the Cross, but would be raised on the third day. Thus, in three days. "When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that He had said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken" (v. 22).

In effect, this gesture of Jesus and His prophetic message are fully understood in the light of his Paschal Mystery. We have here, according to the evangelist John, the first proclamation of the death and resurrection of Christ: His body, destroyed on the Cross by the violence of sin, *will become in the Resurrection the universal meeting place between God and mankind*. And the Risen Christ is Himself the universal meeting place — for everyone! — between God and mankind. For this reason, his humanity

is the true temple where God is revealed, speaks, is encountered; and the *true worshippers*, the true worshippers of God are not only the guardians of the material temple, the keepers of power and of religious knowledge, [but] they are those who *worship God "in spirit and truth"* (Jn 4:23).

In this time of Lent we are preparing for the celebration of Easter, when we will renew the promises of our *Baptism*. Let us walk in the world as Jesus did, and let us make our whole existence a sign of our love for our brothers, especially the weakest and poorest, *let us build for God a temple of our lives*. And so we make it "encounterable" for those who we find along our journey. If we are witnesses of the Living Christ, so many people will encounter Jesus in us, in our witness. But, we ask — and each one of us can ask ourselves — does the Lord feel at home in my life? Do we allow Him to "cleanse" our hearts and to drive out the idols, those attitudes of cupidity, jealousy, worldliness, envy, hatred, those habits of gossiping and tearing down others. Do I allow Him to cleanse all the behaviours that are against God, against our neighbour, and against ourselves, as we heard today in the first Reading? Each one can answer for him/herself, in the silence of his/her heart: "Do I allow Jesus to make my heart a little cleaner?" "Oh Father, I fear the rod!" But Jesus never strikes. Jesus cleanses with tenderness, mercy, love. Mercy is the His way of cleansing. Let us, each of us, let us allow the Lord to enter with His mercy — not with the whip, no, with His mercy — to cleanse our hearts.

(Pope Francis, Angelus, St Peter's Square, 8 March 2015)

## GENERAL NEWS

**“Let it be done unto me according to your word: how Mary helps us to be filled with God”** – a Marian course for Lent, taking place in the Marian Room, at 32 Huntly Street, **on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm**. For enquiries and further information, please contact PJ in the St Mary’s Office, on 01463 233519.

### **Lent Station Masses 2018 – Fridays at 7.00pm:**

9 March: St Lawrence’s, Dingwall  
16 March: Christ the King, Brora \* (coach)  
23 March: St Joachim’s, Wick (coach)

\* Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

Coaches are available to Aviemore (£7), Brora (£8), and Wick (£10). If you would like to reserve a seat on any of them, please contact PJ in the St Mary’s Office, on 01463 233519.

**St John Ogilvie Mass 2018: Saturday 10 March, at St Thomas’, Keith.** Mass begins at 2.00pm. Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB; Homilist: Fr Domenico Zanrè. All welcome.

**Chrism Mass 2018: Thursday 22 March, at St Peter’s, Buckie.** Mass begins at 6.00pm. All welcome.

## PARISH NEWS

**SCIAF WEE BOX APPEAL** – This Lent you have an incredible opportunity to give a hand up to families living in poverty. Families like the Langs, from Cambodia, depend on fishing and farming to survive. They used to struggle to have enough food to eat because of poverty and criminal gangs fishing illegally in their local river. Now they can support themselves. By giving up a treat for the 40 days of Lent and placing the money you save in your WEE BOX, you’ll help change the lives of families like the Langs. **This year you have a fantastic opportunity to make double the difference.** The UK government is matching, pound-for-pound, all donations given to our WEE BOX appeal made before the 8th May. Every pound you save will go even further to helping our brothers and sisters around the world to survive and thrive. **WEE BOX PACKS are available in the entrance foyer – please take one home.**

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

**FREE Daily Lent Reflections** - Would you like a deeper, more powerful Lent this year? Then sign up for Bishop Robert Barron’s FREE daily Lent

reflections at [LentReflections.com](http://LentReflections.com). Each day, from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, the creator and host of the CATHOLICISM Faith Formation programme will send you a short reflection, straight to your inbox. There’s simply no better way to super-charge your Lent. Be sure to sign-up at [LentReflections.com](http://LentReflections.com)!

**‘From the Dark Wood to the Beatific Vision: Journeying Through Lent with Dante’.** This Lent, at St Columba’s, we’ll journey down through the ever-narrowing circles of Hell, up the seven-terraced Mount Purgatory, and finally ascend to Paradise! Our guide will be the fourteenth-century Florentine poet, Dante Alighieri, and we’ll look together at his literary masterpiece, *The Divine Comedy*, using it as a means to examine the nature of sin, the healing love and mercy of God, and the redemption of humanity. **The weekly meetings will run throughout Lent.** Please spread the word – all welcome!

**St Columba’s Baby and Toddler Group:** Mondays at 9.30am-11.30am, in the Meeting Room. Come along and join the fun!

**Cleaning Team:** Tuesday 6th March, at 4.00pm – Shona, Gigi, Don. Can you help? Only one hour a month! See Don for details.

**“90 Club” Winners:** First Prize: John Drew (No. 25); Second Prize: DJ Macmillan (No. 28); Third Prize: Eilidh Shaw (No. 32). **NEXT DRAW: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March.** You too could be a winner if you have a number! Only £2 a month. See Don for details.

**Prize Bingo: NEXT BINGO: FRIDAY, 23 MARCH – ‘eyes down’ at 7.00pm.** A warm welcome awaits you. Items to give as prizes are always needed. Thank you for your support!

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Anna Black + Audrey O’Connell + Rose Corbett + Amelia & John Drew + Murray Mackay + Peter Simpson + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean +

**R.I.P.:** + Alice MacKinnon +

**Anniversaries:** + Colonel John MacGregor + Donald Maclean + Mary Armstrong +