



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

5 FEBRUARY 2017: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 58: 7-10

Psalm: Ps 111 (112): 4-9

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 5 February	FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 7 February	Tuesday of Week 5 in Ordinary Time (100 th Birthday of Canon Duncan Stone, RIP)	Evening Prayer Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 8 February	Wednesday of Week 5 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 9 February	Thursday of Week 5 in Ordinary Time	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 12 February 2017	SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Catholic Education	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: “Salt of the earth.. light of the world”

Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

In this Sunday's Gospel passage, immediately after the Beatitudes, Jesus says to his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world” (Mt 5:13-14). This surprises us a bit when we think of those who were before Jesus when he spoke these words. Who were these disciples? They were fishermen, simple people... But Jesus sees them with God's eyes, and his assertion can be understood precisely as a result of the Beatitudes. He wishes to say: if you are poor in spirit, if you are meek, if you are pure of heart, if you are merciful... you will be the salt of the earth and the light of the world!

To better understand these images, we must keep in mind that Jewish Law prescribed that a little bit of salt be sprinkled over every offering presented to God, as a sign of the covenant. Light for Israel was a symbol of messianic revelation, triumph over the darkness of paganism. Christians, the new Israel, receive a mission to carry into the world for all men: through faith and charity they can guide, consecrate, and make humanity fruitful. We who are baptized Christians are missionary disciples and we are called to become a living Gospel in the world: with a holy life we will “flavour” different environments and defend them from decay, as salt does; and we will carry the light of Christ through the witness of genuine charity. But if

we Christians lose this flavour and do not live as salt and light, we lose our effectiveness. This mission of giving light to the world is so beautiful! We have this mission, and it is beautiful! It is also beautiful to keep the light we have received from Jesus, protecting it and safeguarding it. The Christian should be a luminous person; one who brings light, who always gives off light! A light that is not his, but a gift from God, a gift from Jesus. We carry this light. If a Christian extinguishes this light, his life has no meaning: he is a Christian by name only, who does not carry light; his life has no meaning. I would like to ask you now, how do you want to live? As a lamp that is burning or one that is not? Burning or not? How would you like to live? [The people respond: Burning!] As burning lamps! It is truly God who gives us this light and we must give it to others. Shining lamps! This is the Christian vocation.

(Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 9 February 2014)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

“We must ask the Lord not to [let us] become Christians with flavour-less salt, with salt that stays closed in the bottle.”

GENERAL NEWS

Lent Station Masses 2017 (Fridays, at 7.00pm)

3 March St Ninian's, Inverness
10 March St Mary's, Inverness
17 March Our Lady & St Bean, Marydale
24 March St Vincent's, Tain *

31 March St Columba's, Culloden

7 April St Anne's, Thurso

* Principal Celebrant: Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

In addition, **Bishop Hugh will dedicate the new outdoor altar at Stratherrick, at 12 noon on Saturday 25 March.**

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Orkney: 900th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of St Magnus – 28th to 30th July 2017. A weekend of talks, visits to the island of Egilsay and Birsay, and the celebration of Mass in St Magnus Cathedral. See the poster in the foyer. Those who are interested in attending should go to www.magnus900.co.uk for further details. Updates will be posted on the Diocesan website. Please note that pilgrims will need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements; please have a look at www.visitororkney.com, which provides a valuable guide for visitors.

PARISH NEWS

FIRS: Thursday 9 February, from 2.00pm:

The Friends in Retirement Group are joined by Fiona Boyd, who will give a demonstration on papercraft. All welcome!

FIRS Valentine Lunch: The FIRS lunch has now been scheduled for **Tuesday 14 February**. Please be seated in the University Dining Room for **12.15pm**.

Wed 8 February, at 7.00 pm – “CATHOLICISM”:
Episode 2: “Happy Are We: The Teachings of Jesus” The revelation of Jesus as God is accompanied by a stunning invitation to a unique new way of life, explained in the teachings of Jesus. To every generation, the words of Jesus have proven fascinating, disorienting, sometimes confounding, deeply transformative, and always unforgettable. Bishop Barron highlights the Beatitudes, the path of non-violence and lessons of forgiveness, care for the poor and our relationship with God as presented in the parables. Jesus' teachings are illuminated during Bishop Barron's pilgrimages to Poland, Germany, Spain and New York City. Commentaries at these sites also show how the Catholic Church is a living culture, which gives witness to the inviolable dignity of the human person.

Saturday 11 February: Celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes at Stratherrick! A Day of Pilgrimage for

Healing – at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Stratherrick (Postcode: IV2 6UL). The programme is as follows:

10.00am: Arrival, tea/coffee, registration
10.35am: Praise and Thanksgiving
10.45am: Exposition and Meditation
11.30am: Rosary Walk to the Shrine of Our Lady
12.30pm: Mass, with the Laying on of Hands, and Anointing with the Balm of Mercy
1.30pm: Lunch
2.30pm: Address and Exposition
3.00pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy
3.15pm: Litany of Our Lady and Meditation
3.45pm: Vespers and Benediction
4.15pm: Tea and Departure

Parish Pilgrimages led by Fr Domenico in 2017 & 2018: Several parishioners have asked about the possibility of a Pilgrimage to **Rome in late September/October of 2017**, with a trip to the **Holy Land in November 2018**, to mark the 10th Anniversary of the dedication of our church. Are YOU interested? We would need at least 12 people to make the pilgrimage feasible. Please speak to Fr Domenico! If you would like details about a recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land, go to our parish website and read: <http://www.stcolumbasculloden.org/pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-9-16-january-2017.html>.

Cleaning Team: Monday 6 February, at 9.30am – Marie (Nairn), Margaret, and Don.

“90 Club” Winners for January – No. 43: Jock; No. 70: Marie (Nairn); No. 90: Anne-Marie. You can join in for this month. £2 monthly – three nice prizes to be won; ask Don.

Prize Bingo: Next ‘eyes down’ on Friday 24th February at 7.00 pm. A family fun night! Items to give as prizes are always needed (toiletries, chocolates, wine/spirits, anything else you would like to win yourself!). 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 + Jane Green + Frances Boyle + Ewen Macdonald Snr + Brian Murray + Lachlan MacNeil + Williams family +

Anniversaries: Jean Esselmont + Christopher Smith + Hugh McGoogan + Eunice MacLennan + Kath and Howard Nicolls + Tommy McLaughlan + Mary Sharkey + Magda Utton + Chris Smyth +