



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**5 MAY 2019:
 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41
 Psalm: Ps 29 (30): 2, 4-6, 11-13
 2nd Reading: Apocalypse 5: 11-14
 Gospel: John 21: 1-14

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 5 May	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 7 May	Tuesday of Week 3 in Eastertide	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 8 May	Wednesday of Week 3 in Eastertide	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 9 May	Thursday of Week 3 in Eastertide	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 10 May	Friday of Week 3 in Eastertide	NO MASS – APOLOGIES	---
Saturday 11 May	Saturday of Week 3 in Eastertide	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.30 am 11.00 am
Sunday 12 May	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Good Shepherd Sunday) Second Collection: Vocations	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Third Sunday of Easter: The Transforming Power of the Risen Christ

Today's Gospel recounts the third apparition of the Risen Jesus to the disciples, with the account of the miraculous catch on the shore of the lake of Galilee (cf. Jn 21:1-19). The narrative is situated in the context of the everyday life of the disciples, who returned to their land and to their work as fishermen, after the shocking days of the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. It was difficult for them to understand what had taken place. Even though everything seemed finished, Jesus "seeks" his disciples once more. It is He who goes to seek them. This time he meets them at the lake, where they have spent the night in their boats catching nothing. The nets appear empty, in a certain sense, like the tally of their experience with Jesus: they met him, they left everything to follow him, full of hope... and now? Yes, they saw he was risen, but then they were thought: "He went away and left us.... It was like a dream..."

So it is that at sunrise Jesus presents himself on the lakeshore; however they do not recognise him (cf. v. 4). The Lord says to those tired and disappointed fishermen: "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some" (v. 6). The disciples trust in Jesus and the result is an incredibly abundant catch. At this point John turns to Peter and says: "It is the Lord!" (v. 7). Right away Peter throws himself into the water and swims to the shore, toward Jesus. In that exclamation: "It is the Lord!", there is all the enthusiasm of the Paschal faith, full of joy and wonder, which sharply contrasts

with the disappearance, the dejection, the sense of powerlessness that had accumulated in the disciples' hearts. The presence of the Risen Jesus transforms everything: darkness has become light, futile work has again become fruitful and promising, the sense of weariness and abandonment give way to a new impetus and to the certainty that He is with us.

From that time, these same sentiments enliven the Church, the Community of the Risen One. All of us are the community of the Risen One! At first glance it might sometimes seem that the darkness of evil and the toil of daily living have got the upper hand, the Church knows with certainty that the now everlasting light of Easter shines upon those who follow the Lord Jesus. The great message of the Resurrection instils in the hearts of believers profound joy and invincible hope. Christ is truly risen! Today too, the Church continues to make this joyous message resound: joy and hope continue to flow in hearts, in faces, in gestures, in words. We Christians are all called to communicate this message of resurrection to those we meet, especially to those who suffer, to those who are alone, to those who find themselves in precarious conditions, to the sick, to refugees, to the marginalized. Let us make a ray of the light of the Risen Christ, a sign of his powerful mercy, reach everyone. (Pope Francis, *Regina Caeli* Address, 10 April 2016).

GENERAL NEWS

Tuesday 14 May – Thursday 16 May: Pilgrimage to Orkney with St. Mary's Beaulieu – there are 2 remaining seats on the coach (£245 each). If interested, please contact Fr. Max Nwosu at the following number: 07436 957368.

Wednesday 22 May: 'Human Trafficking and Exploitation' Talk. The Inverness Justice and Peace group have invited Alister Bull from Hope for Justice (hopeforjustice.org) to speak in St. Ninian's hall on Wednesday 22 May. He will identify the different types of exploitation that exist and give advice about how to respond appropriately. **Refreshments at 7.00pm, for a 7.30pm start.** For more information contact Jill Kent at: jillkent@me.com.

Saturday 25 May: The Moray String Quartet – St. Mary's RC Church, Nairn, invites you to a Fundraising Concert for their Church Hall Renovation. **To be held at Pluscarden Abbey at 3.30pm.** The musical selection includes Pachelbel's Canon and 3 pieces by Gershwin. A retiring collection will be taken at the door; suggested donation: £10. Refreshments at the interval. All welcome.

11–13 June 2019: Pluscarden Pentecost Lectures – *"Beauty will Save the World" – A Theological and Pastoral Reflection on the Role of Beauty in the Life of the Church.* The series will consist of four talks by Fr. Martin Boland. These lectures will contend that without beauty, the Church becomes less attractive and the good news of God's grace is expressed with less clarity and conviction. When the beauty of the Church is celebrated, men and women will develop a deeper appreciation of the transcendence of the Triune God. The dates and titles of the talks are as follows:

- Tuesday 11 June at 3.00pm: The problem of beauty in the contemporary mind.
- Wednesday 12 June at 10.30am: Retrieving beauty.
- Wednesday 12 June at 3.00pm: The Incarnation as the revelation of beauty itself.
- Thursday 13 June at 10.30am: Celebrating beauty in the life of the Church.

There is no charge for these lectures, and all are welcome to attend. To register for the talks, or to make further enquiries, or even to book accommodation, please send an e-mail to: guestmaster@pluscardenabbey.org.

PARISH NEWS

Sunday 2 June, from 11.00am onwards: St. Ninian's Summer Fete. Why not head along to this special event? Fun for all the family! Home bakes, teas/coffees, burger stalls, bottle stalls, bric-a-brac, and much, much more! **This year, we have been invited to set up our own stalls to help St. Columba's. Would you like to get involved?** All monies raised by our stall(s) will go to our parish! Please speak to Fr. Domenico if you are interested.

Lent and Holy Week are 'now over'; what next? – Several parishioners have asked how they can maintain the spiritual momentum developed during Lent and Holy Week. Here are a few practical tips:

- First and foremost, **PRAY!** If you want to know Jesus better, just like any good friend, you need to spend quality time with him! Why not commit a little time each day (start with 15 minutes), ideally at the same hour and in the same place?

- Consider grounding your life more concretely in the **Eucharist**, the source and summit of the Christian life. Commit to attending **one extra Mass a week.**
- Prepare yourself by for Mass by participating regularly in the **Sacrament of Confession** (ideally once a month).
- Cultivate a deeper appreciation and reverence for the Blessed Sacrament by setting aside time for **Eucharistic Adoration** (every Wednesday and Friday at St. Columba's).
- **Spiritual Reading:** why not read a spiritually edifying book? If you'd like any suggestions, speak to Fr. Domenico.
- **Holy Scripture:** get to know the development of the early Church, and the work of Peter and Paul, by reading the Acts of the Apostles.
- A good way to strengthen your relationship with the Son is through His Mother! "With the **Rosary**, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of His love." (Pope John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*)

RETURN OF SCIAF WEE BOXES – Please return these boxes to us from Easter Sunday onwards. Every pound you save will help our brothers and sisters around the world to survive and thrive. **WEE BOX PACKS are available in the entrance foyer – please take one home.**

Highland Foodbank – April and May: Your donations help to provide emergency food and support to local people in crisis. During these months, we would be grateful for the following items: * Tins of Vegetables * Cartons of Long Life Fruit Juice * Washing Powder (small) * Shaving Foam / Razors. Please leave them in the plastic box at the front door of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP: there is **NO meeting tomorrow (6 May)**, due to the Bank Holiday. The group returns the week after 13 May.

CLEANING TEAM SOS! We need your help! Can you spare about an hour monthly to keep the church clean? We need 3 more helpers to assist those who do the duties at the present time. The cleaning is done Mondays/Tuesdays around NOON or 1.30pm or 4.00pm, if you would like to come on board and give us a hand. Please speak to Don. **Sunday 5 May: Margaret and Don. Anyone else?!**

"90 Club" – April Winners! – First Prize: No. 63 (Brian); Second Prize: No. 20 (LSU); Third Prize: No. 73 (LSU). £200.00 banked! You might like to join in: only £2 monthly. There are 3 nice prizes to be won. Ask Don for details.

Next Prize Bingo: FRIDAY 31 MAY! – 'eyes down' at **7.00pm.** Family fun for all! A warm welcome awaits you. Items to give as prizes are needed: our supplies are low! Gifts can include: boxed toiletry sets, spirits, wine, boxed biscuits, scented candles, gift vouchers, unwanted gifts.. The bingo success is all down to the many wonderful items that you hand in; please do keep them coming! Thank you!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Vinnie Walton + Michael Good + Elspeth Angus + Magda Maclean + Laura Johnstone + Kirsteen MacCorquodale + Ian Burns +