



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C**  
**('LAETARE SUNDAY')**

## Sunday Mass Readings

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

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 6 March	Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C) (Second Collection: SCIAF)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Tuesday 8 March	St Duthac - Commemoration	Mass	19.30
Wednesday 9 March	Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 10 March	St John Ogilvie - Feast	* Stations of the Cross * Mass	19.00 19.30
Friday 11 March	Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Sunday 13 March	Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C) (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30

### 'SCIAF Sunday': A Letter from Bishop Joseph Toal, Bishop President of SCIAF

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
On this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (SCIAF Sunday) I write to you on behalf of the Bishops of Scotland to thank you for your generous and loving support of SCIAF – our Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund.

In today's Gospel we hear how the Father "was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly." Despite his sinfulness the father forgives his son and loves him without reserve, restoring his dignity and sense of worth.

We too are sinners and, despite this, we too are touched by the grace and mercy of our Father. Broken as we are, our relationship with God and the experience of his unconditional love and acceptance inspires us to love one another, particularly those who are poorest and most marginal among us. Through SCIAF we can give thanks and glory to God by returning that love and mercy to those in need with joy and gladness in our hearts.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy the Church throws open its doors to the mercy of God and encourages us to accept God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Pope Francis asks that all Catholics show the same mercy and generosity of spirit to others.

SCIAF is mercy in action. Through our solidarity with the poor and vulnerable we all learn to see Jesus, "the face of the Father's mercy" in each other. In Ethiopia, SCIAF works with communities, driven into poverty and desperation by drought. This Lent, they share the story of Carfi Sara who speaks of how he was once "paralysed by

poverty" but how SCIAF's support has restored his sense of dignity by enabling him to provide for his family.

We can take inspiration from Carfi's message to the people of Scotland: "Your kindness has transformed my life, but I am just one man. Many more families are living in poverty. When they ask me, I give to the poor. Please do the same. Together, we can make people strong."

SCIAF's mission has always been to reach out to the most vulnerable of our global neighbours in a way that respects their dignity; giving people a hand up to help them flourish and working alongside them to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice.

This Lent, we have a fantastic opportunity to help many more families like Carfi's. For the second year in a row, **every penny you put into a WEE BOX or collection plate for SCIAF will be doubled by the UK government. To qualify, our donations must reach SCIAF by 4<sup>th</sup> May** so please remember to count up your coins and send in the funds as soon as you can.

SCIAF is a testament to faith. Our thoughts and prayers bring people hope and encouragement to those in desperate need, providing comfort in the knowledge that they are not forgotten. But by living our faith in this way, our own lives are also enriched. I urge you this Lent, in your prayers and in your actions, to commit yourself once again to the work of SCIAF. Let us share what we have gratefully received with our brothers and sisters around the world, bringing wholeness and dignity to those left paralysed by poverty.

## GENERAL NEWS

### St Mary's Lenten Catechesis (Talk and Discussion)

- Tuesday 8 March: "Oriental Religious Interface: Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Islam" – Fr Zeljko Pasa
- Tuesday 15 March: "*The Imitation of Christ*: The Royal Road for Holy Week" – Fr James Bell

All talks take place in the Marian Room, at 7.00pm.

## PARISH NEWS

### easyfundraising.org.uk

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising a **free donation for St Columba's Church, Culloden?**

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – **it doesn't cost you a penny extra!** It's really simple, all you have to do is:

**1. Join.** Go to the following website: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcolumbascullo-den/> and sign up for free.

**2. Shop.** Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

**3. Raise.** After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever! There are **no catches or hidden charges** and St Columba's Church, Culloden will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

**Thank You!** – to our donors for their generous gifts of £550 this week. The Parish of St Columba's is extremely grateful to you for your great support as well as for your prayers. May the Good Lord bless you in abundance.

### Reconciliation and Holy Communion classes:

Thursdays from 5.30pm until 6.00pm.  
10 & 17 March; 14, 21, 28 April.

### Confirmation classes:

Thursdays from 6.30pm until 7.15pm.  
10 & 17 March; 21 & 28 April.

### Inter-Diocesan World Youth Day Gathering:

The Inter Diocesan WYD 2016 Palm Sunday Mass will be held on **20th March at 1.00pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen**. Young People from all over Scotland will be gathering in Aberdeen. This is a fantastic opportunity for those going to World Youth Day in Krakow - and for those from all our parishes who are not going to Krakow - to share their faith together. The day will involve catechesis for the young people, a Palm Procession before Mass at 3.30pm, and social time. The Speakers and Celebrants are Archbishop Leo Cushley and Bishop Hugh Gilbert. Everyone is welcome, especially young people and families! **We hope to organise a minibus to travel there: please speak to Fr Domenico. This should be a 'must' for our teenagers!**

**"Thirsting for Mercy: Journeying with Christ Through Holy Week"**. This one-day retreat, organised and led by Fr Domenico, will take place at **St Mary's, Beaulieu**, on

**Monday 21 March, beginning at 11.00am**. The Day will include two substantial Reflections, Rosary, Holy Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, opportunities for Confession, and Benediction. – Everyone is very welcome!

## HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

**Palm Sunday** (Sun 20 March) – 09.30am Mass.

**Monday of Holy Week** – Retreat at St Mary's, Beaulieu: "Thirsting for Mercy: Journeying with Christ through Holy Week", 11.00am-3.00pm.

**Tuesday of Holy Week** – 6.30pm Confessions; 7.30pm Mass.

**Wednesday of Holy Week** – 11.00am Mass

**Holy Thursday** – 7.30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday** – 3.00pm: Liturgy of the Passion

**Holy Saturday**: Easter Vigil – 8.30pm

**Easter Sunday** – 9.30am Mass.

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

**Lenten Station Masses:** these take place on **Fridays during Lent, beginning at 7.00pm**. A large minibus has been pre-booked to allow as many parishioners as possible to attend these pilgrimages to our Lenten Station Masses. **Please reserve your seat on the minibus NOW – they are going quickly!** Subsidised costs per person are dependent on filling all 24 seats. Please book your seat(s) by phoning PJ in the office at St Mary's Presbytery, Huntly Street, on (01463) 233519, or filling in the travel list at the back of St Mary's Church. The travel cost is listed after the destination:  
11 March St Martin's, Ullapool (£12 per person) \*\*  
18 March St Mary's, Nairn \*\*

\*\* Please note that the Principal Celebrant at the Ullapool and Nairn Station Masses is Bishop Hugh Gilbert, OSB.

**Church cleaning:** Wednesday 10th March, at 1pm: Mary, Marie, Margaret. Anyone else able to help, please come along.

**"90 Club" Winners:** no.19 (Malcolm); no.33 (Margaret); no.57 (Anne). Next draw Sunday 27th March. You could be our next winners – there are a few spare numbers available: only £2 monthly. Please ask Don.

**Prize Bingo:** NO PRIZE BINGO until 29 April. Thank You to everyone who has donated goods for prizes: without your valuable help, we would not have the success that we do. Any non-perishable items can still be handed in; we will store them until our next Bingo night.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Sick:** + Audrey O'Connell + Anna Black + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Cathy Thomson + Marie Coyle

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