



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**7 MAY 2017:
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
"GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY"**

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41

Psalm: Ps 22:1-6

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 7 May	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Second Collection: Seminarians' Bursary Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 9 May	Tuesday in the Fourth Week of Easter	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 10 May	Wednesday in the Fourth Week of Easter	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 11 May	Thursday in the Fourth Week of Easter	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 14 May	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

May: A Month Dedicated to Mary

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, we find Mary's great hymn of praise to Yahweh. It commences with the simple declaration, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." Mary announces here that her whole being is ordered to the glorification of God. Her ego wants nothing for itself; it wants only to be an occasion for giving honour to God. But since [...] God needs nothing, whatever glory Mary gives to him returns to her benefit so that she is magnified in the very act of magnifying him. In giving herself away fully to God, Mary becomes a superabundant source of life; indeed, she becomes pregnant with God. This odd and wonderful rhythm of magnifying and being magnified is the key to understanding everything about Mary, from her divine motherhood, to her assumption and Immaculate Conception, to her mission in the life of the church. The great nineteenth-century Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins caught this in his ballad "The May Magnificat." He wonders aloud in the first few stanzas why May should be a month dedicated to Mary, and he provides Mary's own answer:"

*Ask of her, the mighty mother:
Her reply puts this other
Question: What is Spring?—
Growth in every thing—*

Then, with typical verbal dexterity and spiritual enthusiasm, Hopkins delineates the modes of growth in springtime:

*Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,
Grass and greenworld all together;
Star-eyed strawberry-breasted
Throstle above her nested
Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin
Forms and warms the life within;
And bird and blossom swell
In sod or sheath or shell.*

And he imagines Mary the Mother of God surveying all of this life with limitless pleasure:

*All things rising, all things sizing
Mary sees, sympathising
With that world of good,
Nature's motherhood.*

Mary's utter willingness to magnify the Lord made of her a matrix of life. The spring itself, in all of its wild fecundity, is but a hint at the vitality that she unleashes.
(Bishop Robert Barron, *Catholicism*)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"At the beginning of May, let us invoke the heavenly intercession of Mary, Mother of Jesus. Dear young people, learn to pray with the simple and effective prayer of the rosary." (General Audience, Wednesday 3 May 2017).

GENERAL NEWS

Today's Second Collection: Seminarians' Bursary Fund: Today is known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We are blessed to have FIVE men who are studying to be Priests in our Diocese: **Deacon Emmet O'Dowd; Deacon Rafal Sweda; Christopher Doig; Dominic Nwaigwe; Malachy Eze.** Please pray for these men, as they continue to respond with joy to the call of the Lord. Each of our seminarians should be supported and cherished, and we are lucky to have them; however, we would rejoice to have more! Please do consider offering a daily prayer for an increase in Priestly Vocations to our Diocese. Another way that you can help is to consider a financial contribution to our Diocesan Seminarians' Bursary Fund. The annual cost to the Diocese of training each Seminarian is around £25,000. This covers their university tuition costs, their accommodation, and their food, books, and travel costs. Our Second Collection today will be to help with the training costs of these men.

Wednesday 3 May at 7.30pm: Inverness Justice and Peace Group will be meeting on the first Wednesday of the month (**3 May**) in **St Ninian's Parish Hall**. The topic will be '**I was a stranger and you welcomed me**', exploring what we mean by the term 'refugees'. New members are warmly welcomed. All enquiries to Jill Kent at: jillkent@me.com.

Sat 13 May at St Mary's: Our Lady of Fatima –
A Day with Our Lady, to celebrate the Centenary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima **at St Mary's, Inverness**. There is a full programme of activities:

10.00 am:	Mass
10.30am-11.15am:	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunities for Confession
11.20am:	Guided Meditation
12 noon:	Regina Caeli; Benediction
12.15pm:	Rosary Procession to the Shrine
12.45pm:	Litany of Our Lady; Prayer of Consecration; Hymn; Final Blessing
1.00pm:	Lunch in the Hall

Saturday 20 May: Spring Fair at St Mary's, Inverness, 10.45am-12.30pm – The Tuesday Craft Group is organising a Spring Fair for Mary's Meals; the Group will be showing crafts for the first time and selling them for Mary's Meals. Have you any wool you want to give away? Please give your wool to the members on Tuesdays in the Marian Room or to any of the Sisters, at any time. The Group will also welcome any of your knitting, crochets or any crafts that you

want to donate for the Sales. Please come and support Mary's Meals.

PARISH NEWS

Wednesday 10 May: 'Faith in Film' Evening, at 7.00pm – "Fatima: The 13th Day". In a world torn apart by persecution, war and oppression, 3 children were chosen to offer a message of hope to the world. Based on the memoirs of the oldest Seer, Lucia Santos, and many thousands of independent eye-witness accounts, *The 13th Day* dramatizes the true story of three young shepherds who experienced six apparitions with a "Lady from Heaven" between May and October 1917. Abducted from their homes, thrown into prison and interrogated under the threat of death in the government's attempt to silence them, the children remained true to their story. A stylistically-beautiful and technically-innovative film, made on location in Portugal and in the UK, *The 13th Day* features a cast of over 250 people. Duration: 85 mins. All welcome!

Thursday 11 May: FIRS (Friends in Retirement), 2.00pm – 4.00pm – The speaker will be Jim Ferguson from Castle Group Security. All welcome!

Saturday 10 June: Parish Feast of St Columba! We will celebrate our parish patronal feast on Saturday 10 June (as opposed to 9 June!), with a Mass at 12 noon, followed by a family barbecue/picnic on our patio area. Chefs wanted!! Details to follow!

"90 Club": April Winners! – First Prize: No. 65 (Johnny Gallagher); Second Prize: No. 63 (Malcolm Grout); Third Prize: No. 77 (Es Loftus). Congratulations to you all! Numbers are still available; only £2 monthly. See Don for details.

NEXT PRIZE BINGO: 26 MAY! Eyes down at 7.00pm. A family fun night, with great company! Come and join us! All monies go towards our Building Fund. Our prize box is getting rather low – items to give as prizes are much needed (chocolates, wine, toiletries, stationery, or any item you would like to win)! Many thanks for your continued support!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Leslie Murray + Frances Boyle + Ewen Macdonald Senior + Brian Murray + Lachlan MacNeil + Louisa and Suzanne Williams + Cath Maclean + Eilidh McPherson + Morag Macintyre + Mary Johnstone + Rose Corbett + Anne Antoine

Anniversaries: + Anne Lowe + Lillian Stewart + Chris Green