



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**8 JANUARY 2017:
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalm: Ps 71 (72): 1-2, 7-8, 10-13

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 8 January	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Second Collection: Justice and Peace	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 10 January	Tuesday in the First Week of the Year	Evening Prayer Service of the Word and Holy Communion	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 11 January	Wednesday in the First Week of the Year	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 12 January	Thursday in the First Week of the Year	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 15 January 2017	SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

World Day of Prayer for Peace 2017: Letter from Bishop Nolan, President of Justice and Peace Scotland

We live in a world where there is an endless cycle of violence. No sooner is a conflict over in one part of the world than another begins elsewhere. No sooner is one war ended than another flairs up. And some wars seem to go on and on, and we despair that they will never end.

Every year, the Church begins the New Year by praying for peace in a troubled world. Well, our world is as troubled by war and violence this year no less than it was last year. What will bring the cycle of violence to an end? One thing is certain, responding to violence with violence is no answer. For violence begets violence. We can see that in our own personal lives, in our relationship with family, neighbours and colleagues. If a harsh word is spoken and you respond with another harsh word, things don't get better, they get worse. Verbal violence is no more effective than physical violence in bringing about peace.

With the year of mercy last year, many of us have been trying to put into practice the challenging teaching of Jesus when he says: blessed are the merciful. Or again when he says: blessed are the meek. But when it comes to the world scene, it seems that nation states are not interested in that teaching of Jesus. Nations can see mercy as weakness. And no nation wants to be meek and mild. Nations want to be powerful and strong. They put their faith in military might. So even poor countries, who find it difficult to feed their people, see themselves justified in spending money on armaments and weapons of war. So much money is spent on the accumulation of arms: so much human talent and effort spent in developing weapons of destruction.

Our country, Britain, is now the second largest exporter of arms in the world. The abundance of weapons of war and ammunition helps keep the flames of war alive in many a conflict throughout the world. The constant wars and armed conflicts show that humanity is all too ready to use violence and force as a solution to disputes and discord, to seek peace through the barrel of a gun. Jesus says: turn the other cheek. In other words: do not respond to violence with violence. As individuals we find that challenging and difficult to do. Nation states seem to find it impossible.

On this day of prayer for peace, we pray that, inspired by the teachings of Jesus, we may recognise that peace in the world begins with peace in our own hearts and that we are challenged by Jesus to respond to any bitterness and aggression we face from others with words and gestures of love and reconciliation. We in turn need to influence our politicians and those who govern us to seek peaceful solutions to conflict, to use the weapons of diplomacy not of war, and to do all they can to bring the constant cycle of violence to an end.

With my prayers for peace in your lives, peace among nations, peace on earth.

Yours sincerely, + William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway, President, Bishops' Conference Justice & Peace Commission.

GENERAL NEWS

Congratulations to Reverend Father Andrzej Niski on his Ordination to the Priesthood in St Mary's on Friday 6 January. It was such an uplifting and moving liturgy, and was a wonderful occasion for our Highland Deanery. All of us at St Columba's wish Father Andrzej every assurance of our prayers, and our continuing prayerful and moral support, as he begins his priestly ministry in the Highlands.

Relics of St Maximilian Kolbe: Relics of the Polish Franciscan saint Maximilian Kolbe are coming to the Diocese later this month. The schedule is as follows:

Friday 20 January 2017

King's College Chapel, Aberdeen University

6.00pm: Celebration in honour of St Maximilian Kolbe, followed by Mass and veneration of his relics.

Saturday 21 January 2017

Pluscarden Abbey

9.00am: Mass, followed by veneration of the relics.

11.00am: Celebration in honour of St Maximilian Kolbe, with an opportunity to venerate his relics.

12.40pm: Prayer during the Day.

St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen

4.00pm: Celebration in honour of St Maximilian Kolbe, with an opportunity to venerate his relics.

7.00pm: Mass

Sunday 22 January 2017

St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen

8.00am: Mass, followed by veneration of the relics.

9.30am: Mass in Polish, followed by veneration of the relics.

11.15am: Mass. Veneration of the relics until 3.00pm.

3.00pm: Mass in Polish, followed by veneration of the relics.

King's College Chapel, Aberdeen University

6.30pm: Mass, followed by veneration of the relics.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 7–14 July 2017: this year, the Diocesan pilgrimage will be to Lourdes. The pilgrimage, organised by Tangney Tours, will be led by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB. Accommodation will be in the 4-star hotel Mediterranée. The price is **£767 per person**, which includes: flights, hotel transfers, full board accommodation, taxes. There is a **single room supplement of £161**. Travel insurance: £30 per person. For further information and a booking form, please contact Deacon John Wire, via e-mail: jj.wire@btinternet.com, or telephone 07711 847582.

PARISH NEWS

First Holy Communion classes will start on **Thursday 12 January at 5.30pm**. Families are invited to attend the first

session, which will last for 30 minutes. **If any children are yet to register, please collect a form from the Sacristy and return it as soon as possible.**

Thank you to an extremely kind donor for the very generous **Gift Aid offering of over £500.00**. It is much appreciated!

Christmas events: between the **Christmas Raffle and the Hogmanay Dance, we have raised almost £1200** for the building fund! A tremendous achievement – thanks to the hard work and dedication of a team of organisers! **Our Grand Christmas Day Draw took in £215.00**, with a delicious hamper and a whole host of other prizes! Thanks to your generosity, **we raised £174.82 for Save the Children's Syria Crisis Appeal**. Thank you!

"CATHOLICISM" is coming to St Columba's!! From **Wednesday 1 February**, and throughout Lent, we will be journeying around the world, deep into our Catholic Faith, with the acclaimed DVD study series "Catholicism". With creator and host Bishop Robert Barron, you will learn *what* Catholics believe and *why*, while being immersed in the art, architecture, literature, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition. The Catholicism Faith Formation Programme brings the beauty, goodness and truth of the Church to life so that you can better understand and share your faith. This study programme is open to everyone, regardless of age and parish! Book your place on Wednesdays in Lent now!

Sick, or in Hospital? Please contact Fr Domenico if you require a visit or know of anyone who is sick and housebound or in hospital and wishes a visit during this festive season.

Cleaning Team: Monday 9th January at 9.30am – Marie, Margaret, and Don.

Christmas Day Raffle Prizes are on table in the front lobby. If you are a winner, please make sure that you collect your prize! Thank you to everyone who took part.

"90 Club" fees are now due for those who pay in advance; please check with Don. There are some numbers still left – only £2 a month.

Prize Bingo: Friday 27 January, at 7.00pm is the date of our next 'eyes down' – thereafter every last Friday until June. Your help in donating items to give as prizes is always greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Leslie Murray + Jane Green + Frances Boyle + Ewen Macdonald

Anniversaries: Mary McGlade + Donald Brown + Robert Gibson + Mollie Pocock + Christopher Kelman + Moira Cook + Members of the Campbell and MacPherson families