



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

8TH MAY 2016
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 7: 55-60
Psalm: Ps 96: 1-2. 6-7. 9
2nd Reading: Apocalypse 22: 12-14. 16-17. 20
Gospel: John 17: 20-26

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 8 May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Second Collection: Communications)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 10 May	Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Eastertide	Mass	7.30pm
Wednesday 11 May	Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Eastertide	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 12 May	Thursday of the Seventh Week of Eastertide	Mass	7.30pm
Friday 13 May	Our Lady of Fatima	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Sunday 15 May	SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST (Second Collection: Building Fund)	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	9.00am 9.30am

Pope Francis: “The Marian month of May is a fitting time to start the habit of a daily rosary”

“Ten years ago I read about Our Lady’s request at Fatima that we say a daily rosary. At first I flinched at the notion of saying one every day. I thought it impossible; I’d never have the time, the concentration or the patience to meditate on five decades each day. But it got easier. Now, even if I have worked for 12 hours, and struggle to fit in the five decades, I still manage it, even if I forfeit sleep or a social occasion or have to eat a late dinner and pray the rosary at the same time.

But I’d never measure up to Pope Francis. Our Pope recites 15 decades of the Rosary every day, three times that which Our Lady asked for at Fatima. Two days ago he tweeted that the month of May is dedicated to Our Lady and it is “fitting” to start the habit of a daily rosary now. The rosary is a time-honoured prayer, but difficult to say, but by promoting it, Pope Francis is giving people the means to win graces that will enable them overcome their problems. One of the 15 promises given those who recite the rosary is that “they will never be conquered by misfortune”. I often tell my friends of mine to say a rosary when they are in-between jobs, stumped with a huge bill or they have been reminded of their student debt.

The Pope’s confidence in Our Lady developed because of two key personal awakenings that happened in the mid-1980s. In 1985 he attended a rosary that was being led by St John Paul II. The sight of the Polish Pope on his knees greatly moved him. He did some acute soul-searching as to how much he trusted Our Lady, and he later reflected: “I became aware of the density of the words of the Mother of

Guadalupe to St Juan Diego: ‘Don’t be afraid, am I not perhaps your mother?’”

From that day forth, he said 15 decades of the Rosary.

In 1986, the then Padre Bergoglio finished as rector in the seminary, and was sent to Germany for six months. At the time, to borrow modern parlance, Fr Bergoglio was not in a good place – the Dirty War in Argentina had exacted a heavy toll on his nerves and he worried that the Jesuit community would never recover from the many mutinies that had taken place in their ranks.

But it was here in Germany that he would find solace when praying before the painting of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, in Augsburg. He carried the devotion from Germany back home to Argentina.

A copy of the original German painting was done in an ordinary Argentinean church, San José del Telar. As Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he would stroll into this modest church and pray before the painting.

Now as Pope, he has used the symbolism of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, to explain matters of the faith. For Pope Francis, the knots represent the sins that separate us from God, and Our Lady, in untying them, brings us closer to God. As the Pope has said: “Mary, whose ‘yes’ opened the door for God to undo the knot of the ancient disobedience, is the Mother who patiently and lovingly brings us to God, so that he can untangle the knots of our soul by his fatherly mercy.” [Adapted from *The Catholic Herald*, 19 May 2014]

GENERAL NEWS

Deanery Marian Pilgrimage to Stratherrick: Saturday 14 May 2016. This pilgrimage, in honour of Our Lady of May, will take place at the church of the Immaculate Conception, Stratherrick, from 10.00am-5.00pm. The day will be led by Fr James Bell and will include Holy Mass at 4.00pm (Preacher: Fr Domenico Zandre). A detailed programme and poster are on the noticeboard. All welcome!

The **Pluscarden Pentecost Lectures 2016** entitled '*Newman on Vatican II*' will be given in St. Scholastica's Retreat House, Pluscarden, from **17 – 19 May** by **Father Ian Ker**.

The **Highland Foodbank** is short of some of the items normally given out in their food packages and has asked if we can help. The items are *tinned mince/stew, cream crackers, tinned corn beef*. If you wish to donate, please feel free to hand in items to us until the end of May. The Foodbank is also seeking volunteers to help with a supermarket collection at Tesco Extra, Inshes, on Friday/Saturday 1/2 July. If you could give a couple of hours to help, please contact Lorna Dempster, tel. 07875 332396 or e-mail lorna.dempster@blythwood.org

PARISH NEWS

Today is Papal World Day of Communications. World Communications Day was established by Pope Paul VI in 1967 as an annual celebration that encourages us to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that the modern means of social communication (the press, motion pictures, radio, television and the internet) afford the Church to communicate the gospel message. The retiring collection today will be for this work; there is a letter from the Bishops' Conference of Scotland on the noticeboard, providing further information.

SCOTTISH CHURCH CENSUS: Forms must be filled in this weekend and returned so they can be collated on Monday. Forms will be available on the table in the entrance foyer; it is important to fill them in, as this is a national census. Thank you for your help.

FIRS: The next meeting of the Friends in Retirement Group will take place at St Columba's on **Thursday 12 May, 2.00pm-4.00pm**. Our Speaker is Alice Davidson, who will talk on "**Mary's Meals**". All are welcome!

"Faith in Film" Evening: Wednesday 18th May, beginning at 7.00pm. This month's film is "**The Mission**" (1986), by Roland Joffé, director of "The Killing Fields" and "There Be Dragons". The film, which stars Robert de Niro, Jeremy Irons, Liam Neeson, and Ray McAnally, is based on **the true story of the 18th-century Jesuit missions on the borders of Brazil and Paraguay**. Visually stunning, and with an unforgettable musical score by Ennio Morricone, this film is both memorable and thought-provoking. Certificate PG (125 minutes).

"The Spiritual Works of Mercy": our next Year of Mercy Evening of Reflection on the Spiritual Works of Mercy will take place **at St Columba's on Wednesday 25th May, beginning at 7.00pm**. The format will be as follows: a short talk, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, some quiet time, and concluding with Benediction. Come and join us!

The Good.. we recently received a **Gift Aid tax rebate of £3,100 – wonderful!** Many thanks to all those who contribute to the financial upkeep of the Parish by Standing Order and Gift Aid. If you would to set up a Standing Order and Gift Aid your contributions, please speak to our Treasurer, Ewen Macdonald. Many thanks also with your **SCIAF Wee Box donations. The total collected from 13 March to 1 May was £310.62.**

The Bad.. our latest heating bill was almost **£900.00 for the last quarter**. This is an excessive amount for three months. **Please do NOT alter the thermostat settings.** St Columba's is a modern church with an efficient heating system – it is not cold!! There is no need to make any adjustments to the preset temperatures.

..and the very useful! – last week £23.80 was donated in small change. Thank you! Spare change may be time-consuming to count and bag, but it is gratefully received! Every little helps!

Piety Stall: Do YOU pray a daily Rosary? If not, why not?! Have a look at our Piety Stall for our new collection of rosaries and rosary books, as well as other beautiful gifts. If you would like to learn how to pray the Rosary, see the following site: <http://www.newadvent.org/images/rosary.pdf> Remember the words of Saint John Paul II: "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, Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*)

Reconciliation and Holy Communion classes:

Thursdays, 5.30pm-6.00pm.

Meetings on: 12, 19, 26 May; and on 2, 9, 16, 23 June.

Confirmation classes:

Thursdays, 6.30pm-7.15pm.

Meetings on: 19 May; and on 2 & 16 June.

Church cleaning: Margaret and Don – Tuesday, 10 May, at 4.30pm.

"90 Club" – Next draw Sunday 29th May. There are a few numbers available if you would like to join in this fundraiser. Please ask Don for information.

PRIZE BINGO: Next eyes down Friday 27 May, at 7.00pm. A warm welcome awaits you and your family members. Items to give as prizes are always required. Thank to everyone for the wonderful items we are given; it makes our fund raiser so successful.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + John Drew + Cathy Thomson + Leslie Murray + Rebecca Angus +

Anniversaries: + Lillian Stewart + Anne Low + Mary and Ernie MacMillan + Chris Green +