



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

11 FEBRUARY 2024:
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year B (II); Psalter: Week 2)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Resp. Psalm: 31 (32):1-2, 5, 11
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 11 February	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (p. 849) Second Collection: Catholic Education	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 13 February	Tuesday in Week 6 of Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Ralph McWilliam, RIP (Anniversary on 12 January)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 14 February	ASH WEDNESDAY ~ DAY OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE ~ Mass Intention: Sean Stanley, RIP (Recently Departed)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 15 February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	NO MASS TODAY	---
Saturday 17 February	Saturday after Ash Wednesday Mass Intention: Maria D'Almeida, RIP (Anniversary on 22 January)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 18 February	SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (p. 852)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Made Clean

In the Old Testament, leprosy is depicted as punishment for disobedience of God's commands (see Numbers 12:12-15; 2 Kings 5:27; 15:5). Considered "unclean"—unfit to worship or live with the Israelites, lepers are considered "stillborn," the living dead (see Numbers 12:12). Indeed, the requirements imposed on lepers in today's First Reading—rent garments, shaven head, covered beard—are signs of death, penance, and mourning (see Leviticus 10:6; Ezekiel 24:17). So there's more to the story in today's Gospel than a miraculous healing.

When Elisha, invoking God's name, healed the leper, Naaman, it proved there was a prophet in Israel (see 2 Kings 5:8). Today's healing reveals Jesus as far more than a great prophet—He is God visiting His people (see Luke 7:16). Only God can cure leprosy and cleanse from sin (see 2 Kings 5:7), and only God has the power to bring about what He wills (see Isaiah 55:11; Wisdom 12:18).

The Gospel scene has an almost sacramental quality about it. Jesus stretches out His hand—as God, by His outstretched arm, performed mighty deeds to save the Israelites (see Exodus 14:6; Acts 4:30). His ritual sign is accompanied by a divine word ("Be made clean"). And, like God's word in creation ("Let there be"), Jesus' word "does" what He commands (see Psalm 33:9). The same thing happens when we show ourselves to the priest in the sacrament of penance. On our knees like the leper, we confess our sins to the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm. And through the outstretched arm and divine word spoken by His priest, the Lord takes away the guilt of our sin. Like the leper we should rejoice in the Lord and spread the good news of His mercy. We should testify to our healing by living changed lives. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we should do even the littlest things for the glory of God and that others may be saved. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

And each time we approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a contrite heart, the Lord also repeats to us: "I will; be clean!". How much joy there is in this! In this way the leprosy of sin is overcome; we return to joyfully experience our filial relationship with God and we are fully readmitted into the community. (Angelus, 11 February 2018)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B (p. 849)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 849: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 540: The Creed

p. 567: Preface II of Sundays in Ordinary Time
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

Return of Last Year's Palms – the penitential season of Lent is fast approaching; Ash Wednesday is early this year, on 14 February. If you have any palms from last year, please do hand them in, and we will burn them to make this year's ash. Thank you.

Parish Lenten Course: "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through the Passion" – Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage, led by Professor Edward Sri, who will guide you through the last hours of Christ's life. You'll walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. This course will take place on alternate Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning at 7.00pm, in order to give sufficient time for prayer and reflection. The evenings are: 21 February (week 1 of Lent); 6 March (week 3 of Lent); 20 March (week 5). More details to follow!

Lenten Station Masses 2024 – Masses will take place each Friday in Lent at 7.00pm, at the following locations:

16 February	St. Mary's, Inverness	8 March	St. Aidan's, Aviemore
23 February	Our Lady & St. Bean, Cannich	15 March	St. Joseph's, Invergordon (Bishop Hugh)**
1 March	St. Mary's, Nairn (Bishop Hugh)**	22 March	St. Ninian's, Inverness

Tesco Tokens – St. Joseph's RC Primary School in Inverness needs your help! We have been selected by Tesco's as one of three schools that can benefit from up to £1500 of funding for a project of their choosing. As a city centre school without much green space we are hoping to use the money to build a school garden where the children can grow their own vegetables. We might even make them into some delicious meals! If you can drop a token into the St Joseph's box next time you're in Tesco we would really appreciate it. As Tesco say, "every little helps!"

A Pilgrimage with the Northern Saints, 25-31 August 2024 – A pilgrimage to northern England is being organised for the end of August, leaving from St. Mary's, Inverness. The trip, for up to twenty people, will include visits to the shrines of Blessed Dominic Barberi (St Helens); St. Margaret Clitherow (York) and St. Aidan (Lindisfarne) on their patronal feasts; plus excursions to St. Winefride's shrine in North Wales; Durham Cathedral, Ushaw (former seminary); as well as time in Chester, Manchester, Liverpool and Skipton. In order to minimise the expense, it is hoped that four or five cars could be taken, and the cost of the fuel divided. The approximate overall cost for six nights' (25-31 August) bed and breakfast accommodation in mostly religious retreat centres (some sharing in twin rooms may be necessary) plus fuel will be around £600. Lunch, dinner and other expenses are not included. Anyone interested should contact the office at St Mary's, Inverness, on 01463 233519."

90 Club: Next Draw on 25 February – There are still some people with numbers who have yet to pay their dues; please see Amanda MacNeil. If anyone else would like to try their luck: only £2 monthly, and you could win one of 3 prizes.

Next Prize Bingo Evening on Friday, 23 February! – Doors open: 6.30pm; eyes down: 7.00pm. Items to give as prizes are always needed, and gratefully received; thank you for your support. There is a box in the entrance foyer, under the Piety Stall, in which you can place your donations. NB. We are still looking for someone to take over the Bingo – can you help us? If so, speak to Don, or to Fr. Domenico.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Kathleen Macpherson, Marian Ellis, Chris Hamilton, Rina Herbison, David Munro, Ellen Williams, Rose Corbett, Winnie Ferrari, Esther Smith, Linda Macdonald, Pat Peteranna, Lauren Marsh, Katie MacCormick, Brian Hamilton, Dorothy Macdonald, Cathy Grant

R.I.P: Bill Bewley, Betty Thompson, Ellen Campbell, Maureen Ellis, Fr. Joachim Zok, Don Leith, Moreen Gibson, Ronald MacLeod, Don Leith

Anniversaries: Iain Campbell, James Burns, Chris Waters, Colin Buckley, Darren Burgess, Garry Tindall, Tommy McLaughlan, Chris Smyth, Magda Utton