



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

12 MARCH 2023:
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 3)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7
 Resp. Psalm: Ps 94 (95): 1-2, 6-9
 2nd Reading: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8
 Gospel: John 4: 5-42

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 12 March	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 162)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am
Tuesday 14 March	Tuesday of Week 3 in Lent	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.00 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 16 March	Thursday of Week 3 in Lent	Sacrament of Confession * Stations of the Cross * Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.00 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 18 March	Saturday of Week 3 in Lent	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 19 March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 169) 'LAETARE SUNDAY' SECOND COLLECTION: SCIAF	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am

Third Sunday of Lent: Striking the Rock

The Israelites' hearts were hardened by their hardships in the desert. Though they have seen His mighty deeds, in their thirst they grumble and put God to the test in today's First Reading—a crisis point recalled also in today's Psalm.

Jesus is thirsty, too, in today's Gospel. He thirsts for souls (see John 19:28). He longs to give the Samaritan woman the living waters that well up to eternal life. These waters couldn't be drawn from the well of Jacob, father of the Israelites and the Samaritans, but Jesus was something greater than Jacob (see Luke 11:31–32). The Samaritans were Israelites who escaped exile when Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom eight centuries before Christ (see 2 Kings 17:6, 24–41). They were despised for intermarrying with non-Israelites and worshipping at Mount Gerazim, not Jerusalem. But Jesus tells the woman that the "hour" of true worship is coming, when all will worship God in Spirit and truth.

Jesus' "hour" is the "appointed time" that Paul speaks of in today's Second Reading. It is the hour when the Rock of our salvation was struck on the Cross. Struck by the soldier's lance, living waters flowed out from our Rock (see John 19:34–37). These waters are the Holy Spirit (see John 7:38–39), the gift of God (see Hebrews 6:4).

By the living waters the ancient enmities of Samaritans and Jews have been washed away, the dividing wall between Israel and the nations is broken down (see Ephesians 2:12–14, 18). Since His hour, all may drink of the Spirit in Baptism (see 1 Corinthians 12:13).

In this Eucharist, the Lord now is in our midst—as He was at the Rock of Horeb and at the well of Jacob. In the "today" of our Liturgy, He calls us to believe: "I am He," come to pour out the love of God into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. How can we continue to worship as if we don't understand? How can our hearts remain hardened? (Scott Hahn)

Today's Liturgy: Third Sunday of Lent, Year A (p. 162)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 162: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 543: The Apostles' Creed

p. 167: Preface: The Samaritan Woman
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

Mothers' Day 2023: please note that Mothers' Day is NEXT WEEK (**Sunday 19 March**). We have a selection of suitable Mothers' Day cards, together with Easter Cards, at our well-stocked Piety Stall. Why not browse our items, and pick out a lovely card for the special Mum in your life?

LENT 2023: RESOURCES –

1. Copies of the **Lent edition of the *Walk with Me*** reflection booklets, both **for adults and children**, are available in the entrance foyer, priced £1.00 each. There is also a **Lent calendar for children**, at 50p.
2. **FREE online courses available to you**, which are ideal for Lent:
 - **Scott Hahn, 'Holy is His Name'** – this video-based course traces the meaning of holiness from its origins in Scripture to its appearance in our own lives today. To register and view the course for free, visit: <https://stpaulcenter.com/holystudy/>
 - **Mark Leonard, 'Total Abandonment to God's Will'** – this is available via the following website:
https://www.scienceofsainthood.com/total-abandonment-lent-optin?utm_source=youtube&utm_medium=desc&utm_campaign=2023lent
3. **Lenten Station Masses in the Highland Deanery** – each Friday in Lent at 7.00pm, at the following locations:

17 March	St. Anne's, Thurso
24 March	St. Ninian's, Inverness (* with Bishop Hugh *)
31 March	St. Columba's, Culloden
4. **Lenten Talks: "Thirsting for Our Saviour: Journeying with Jesus through Holy Week"** – Fr. Domenico is planning two talks, to assist with our Holy Week and Triduum preparations: on **Wednesday 29 March, and Wednesday 5 April**, both beginning at 7.00pm. The talk will conclude around 7.30pm, and will be followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The evening will conclude at 8.30pm with Benediction.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN 2024! – Bishop Hugh has kindly agreed to come to the parish and bestow the Sacrament of Confirmation upon our candidates on **Sunday 21 April 2024**. If your child is of the appropriate age (P7/S1), please do get in contact with Fr. Domenico as soon as possible, please.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE! – £1 per strip. 5 prizes to be won, drawn on Easter Sunday. Tickets available at the front door.

Prize Bingo: our next evening together will be on Friday 24 March 2023. Doors open at 6.30pm; 'eyes down' at 7.00pm. Thank you for the many lovely items handed in to give as prizes, these are always needed, and they make the fundraiser such a success. We are quite low for March's Bingo, so any donations will be gratefully accepted. Thank you for your support!

90 Club: NEXT DRAW 26 MARCH! – Would you like to be a winner too? Why not speak to Don for details? Only £24/year, with three cash prizes each month!

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, Mo Horne, Eileen Anne Millar, Tony Lightfoot, Mary & Esther Smith, Linda Macdonald

Anniversaries: Maureen Harkins, Mary Armstrong, Veronica Smith, Leslie Murray, Elsie Heinowski