



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

14 MAY 2023:
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 2)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17
Resp. Psalm: Ps 65 (66): 1-7, 16, 20
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15-18
Gospel: John 14: 15-21

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 14 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (pp. 385 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 16 May	Tuesday of Week 6 in Eastertide	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 18 May	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	NO LITURGIES	---
Saturday 20 May	St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest	NO LITURGIES	---
Sunday 21 May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (pp. 399 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am

Sixth Sunday of Easter: Alive in the Spirit

Jesus will not leave us alone. He won't make us children of God in Baptism only to leave us "orphans," He assures us in today's Gospel (see Romans 8:14–17). He asks the Father to give us His Spirit, to dwell with us and keep us united in the life He shares with the Father. We see the promised gift of His Spirit being conferred in today's First Reading. The scene from Acts apparently depicts a primitive Confirmation rite. Philip, one of the first deacons (see Acts 6:5), proclaims the Gospel in the non-Jewish city of Samaria. The Samaritans accept the Word of God (see Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13) and are baptized.

It remains for the Apostles to send their representatives, Peter and John, to pray and lay hands on the newly baptized—that they might receive the Holy Spirit. This is the origin of our Sacrament of Confirmation (see Acts 19:5–6), by which the grace of Baptism is completed and believers are sealed with the Spirit promised by the Lord.

We remain in this grace so long as we love Christ and keep His commandments. And, strengthened in the Spirit whom Jesus said would be our Advocate, we are called to bear witness to our salvation—to the tremendous deeds that God has done for us in the name of His Son. In today's Psalm, we celebrate our liberation. As He changed the sea into dry land to free the captive Israelites, Christ suffered that He might lead us to God, as we hear in today's Epistle. This is the reason for our hope—the hope that sustains us in the face of a world that cannot accept His truth, the hope that sustains us when we are maligned and defamed for His name's sake. Put to death in the flesh, He was brought to life in the Spirit, Paul tells us today. And as He himself promises: "Because I live, . . . you will live." (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

The commandments are not given to us as a kind of mirror in which to see the reflection of our miseries, our inconsistencies. No, they are not like that. The Word of God is given to us as the Word of life, which transforms the heart, life; which renews, which does not judge in order to condemn, but heals and has forgiveness as its aim. God's mercy is thus. A Word that is light for our steps. All this is the work of the Holy Spirit! He is the Gift of God; he is God himself, who helps us to be free people, people who want and know how to love, people who understand that life is a mission to proclaim the wonders that the Lord accomplishes in those who trust in him. . . (Regina Caeli Address, 10 May 2020)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A (pp. 385 ff.)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 385: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 540: The Creed

p. 561: Preface III of Easter
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

30 May-1 June: Pluscarden Pentecost Lectures – Fr. Abbot and the Community of Pluscarden Abbey are delighted to announce that this year's Pentecost Lectures will be held at the abbey, in St Scholastica's Guesthouse, from Tuesday 30 May until Thursday June 1. The speaker will be Fr. Richard Price, a retired priest in the Archdiocese of Westminster and a former lecturer at Heythrop College. His overall theme will be "Living the Faith in the World of Today". All welcome. See poster on noticeboard for details.

Saturday 17 June: 'New Dawn in the Church' at St. Ninian's, Inverness – a day of Praise and Worship, inspiring talks, youth ministry, testimonies, workshops, healing and much more! The day begins at 10.30am with Holy Mass. Take a packed lunch with you. All welcome.

Sunday 26 June: Diocesan Pilgrimage to Pluscarden – Bishop Hugh is extending an invitation to ALL parishioners to attend this annual diocesan event together. There will be opportunities to relax in the grounds of the Abbey, with a chance to meet people from other parishes. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own picnics; however, refreshments will also be available from 12 pm in the refreshments tent. **The focus for the pilgrimage will be on the ministry of Altar Servers**, who will be most welcome to attend, with their cassocks, cottas, and Guild of St. Stephen medal (if applicable):

1.00pm - Exposition in the Lady Chapel until 2.30pm

1.00pm - Individual confessions in the parlours at St. Benedict's Retreat until 2.30pm

3.00pm - Mass of the day, followed by a Marian procession to the garden facing St. Benedict's Retreat.

SCIAF WEE BOXES – Please hand in your Wee Boxes to St. Columba's as soon as possible. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can gift aid your donation; simply fill out your details on the box. Thank you for your generosity.

PIETY STALL – looking for First Holy Communion gifts, or ideas for presents? Why not check out our extensive range of items at our Piety Stall. Your one-stop shop for all things Catholic!

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.

90 CLUB: NEXT DRAW SUNDAY 28 MAY, AFTER MASS!! – Would you like to be a winner? Speak to Don for details!

MONTHLY FUNDRAISER BINGO: NEXT EVENING ON 26 MAY – Eyes down at 7.00pm. Items are desperately needed to give as prizes; these are essential to make our fundraiser a success: please do help if you can. Thank you for all your generosity!

PARISH FINANCES

30 April 2023: Current Account: £ 632.91 (including Vocations Collection: £ 306.93); Fabric Account: £ 16.50

7 May 2023: Current Account: £ 560.06 (including SCIAF Wee Boxes: £ 169.55); Fabric Account: £ 19.30

Bank Statements, as of 28 April 2023:

No. 1 (Running) Account: £ 25,913.42

Fabric Account: £ 83,411.33

Current Account: RCD of Aberdeen St Mary's Inv a/c No. 2 Culloden

Acc. No: 00809358 – Sort Code: 80 91 26

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, Eileen Anne Millar, Tony Lightfoot, Mary & Esther Smith, Linda Macdonald, Pat Peteranna, Kenneth Cooper

Anniversaries: Alastair McNeill, Canon Hugh Malaney, Ron Page, Isobel Hastie, Anne Hamill