



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

18 FEBRUARY 2024:
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
(Year B (II); Psalter: Week 1)

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 18 February	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 151)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am
Tuesday 20 February	NO MASS TODAY	NO LITURGIES	---
Wednesday 21 February	PARISH LENTEN COURSE: A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE PASSION	Audio-visual series	7.00pm
Thursday 22 February	Chair of St. Peter (Feast) Mass Intention: Maria D'Almeida, RIP (Anniversary on 22 January)	Sacrament of Confession Stations of the Cross Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 24 February	Saturday of Week 1 of Lent Mass Intention: Ian (John) Macdonald, RIP (First Anniversary on 19 February)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 25 February	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 157)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am

First Sunday of Lent: The New Creation

Lent bids us to return to the innocence our baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were saved through the waters of Baptism, Peter reminds us in today's Epistle. And God's covenant with Noah in today's First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation (see Hosea 2:20; Isaiah 11:1-9).

We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today's Gospel. Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam—the beloved son of God (see Mark 1:11; Luke 3:38), living in harmony with the wild beasts (see Genesis 2:19-20), being served by angels (see Ezekiel 28:12-14). Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death (see Romans 5:12-14, 17-20), Jesus is victorious. This is the good news, the "gospel of God" that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God's kingdom.

In the waters of Baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son (see Colossians 1:13-14). We were made children of God, new creations (see 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 4:3-7). But like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness—a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness (see 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 9,13; Deuteronomy 8:2, 16).

We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Saviour—the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm (see John 14:6). He feeds us with the bread of angels (see Psalm 78:25; Wisdom 16:20), and cleanses our consciences in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows—to repent and believe the gospel. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

On this first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to listen carefully and to hear Jesus' appeal to convert, and to believe in the Gospel. We are exhorted to begin the journey towards Easter with commitment, to embrace evermore the grace of God who wishes to transform the world into a kingdom of justice, peace and fraternity. (Angelus, 18 February 2018)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: First Sunday of Lent, Year B (p. 151)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 151: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 540: The Creed

p. 555: Preface I of Lent
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

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:

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

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, Esther Smith, Linda Macdonald, Pat Peteranna, Lauren Marsh, Katie MacCormick, Brian Hamilton, Dorothy Macdonald, Cathy Grant

R.I.P: Winnie Ferrari, Fr. Joachim Zok, Moreen Gibson, Ronald MacLeod

Anniversaries: John Smith, Ian Macdonald, Anne-Marie Grout, Ian Smith, Jack Hasterick, Johnny Gallagher, Mary Sharkey, Joe Sharkey, Jim Murray, Moira McGoogan