



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

5 MARCH 2023:
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 2)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4
Resp. Psalm: Ps 32 (33): 4-5, 18-20, 22
2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 8-10
Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 5 March	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 157)	Holy Mass	9.30 am
Tuesday 7 March	Tuesday of Week 1 in Lent	NO LITURGIES	---
Thursday 9 March	Thursday of Week 1 in Lent	NO LITURGIES	---
Saturday 11 March	Saturday of Week 1 in Lent	NO LITURGIES	---
Sunday 12 March	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 162)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am

Second Sunday of Lent: "Listen to Jesus!"

Today the Gospel presents the Transfiguration. It is the second stage of the Lenten journey: the first was the temptation in the desert, last Sunday; the second, the Transfiguration. Jesus "took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart" (Mt 17:1). The mountain in the Bible represents a place close to God and an intimate encounter with Him, a place of prayer where one stands in the presence of the Lord. There up on the mount, Jesus is revealed to the three disciples as transfigured, luminescent and most beautiful. And then Moses and Elijah appear and converse with Him. His face is so resplendent and his robes so white that Peter, awe-struck, wishes to stay there, as if to stop time. Suddenly from on high the voice of the Father resounds proclaiming Jesus to be his most beloved Son, saying "listen to him" (v. 5). This word is important! Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: "listen to Jesus, because he is my beloved Son". This week let us keep this word in our minds and in our hearts: "listen to Jesus!". And the Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. "Listen to Jesus!". Don't forget.

This invitation from the Father is very important. We, the disciples of Jesus, are called to be people who listen to his voice and take his words seriously. To listen to Jesus, we must be close to him, to follow him, like the crowd in the Gospel who chase him through the streets of Palestine. Jesus did not have a teaching post or a fixed pulpit, he was an itinerant teacher, who proposed his teachings, teachings given to him by the Father, along the streets, covering distances that were not always predictable or easy. Follow Jesus in order to listen to him. But also let us listen to Jesus in his written Word, in the Gospel. I pose a question to you: do you read a passage of the Gospel everyday? ... In any given moment of the day I take the Gospel from my pocket and I read something, a short passage. Jesus is there and he speaks to us in the Gospel! Ponder this. Let the Gospel be with us always, because it is the Word of Jesus in order for us to be able to listen to him.

From the event of the Transfiguration, I would like to take two significant elements that can be summed up in two words: *ascend* and *descent*. We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer. But we cannot stay there! Encounter with God in prayer inspires us anew to "descend the mountain" and return to the plain where we meet many brothers weighed down by fatigue, sickness, injustice, ignorance, poverty both material and spiritual. To these brothers in difficulty, we are called to bear the fruit of that experience with God, by sharing the grace we have received. And this is curious. When we hear the Word of Jesus, when we listen to the Word of Jesus and carry it in our heart, this Word grows. Do you know how it grows? By giving it to the other! The Word of Christ grows in us when we proclaim it, when we give it to others! And this is what Christian life is. It is a mission for the whole Church, for all the baptized, for us all: listen to Jesus and offer him to others. Do not forget: this week listen to Jesus! (Angelus Address, St Peter's Square, 16 March 2014)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: Second Sunday of Lent, Year A (p. 157)

p. 521: Introductory Rites

p. 157: Readings & Proper Prayers

p. 543: The Apostles' Creed

p. 167: Preface: The Samaritan Woman

p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II

p. 631: Communion Rite

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:

10 March	St. Aidan’s, Aviemore (* with Bishop Hugh *)
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.

Prize Bingo: our next evening together will be on Friday 24 March 2023. 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: DRAW TODAY! Good luck to all who have a number. Would you like to join in, too? Please see Don.

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

RIP: Charlie MacNeil, John Macdonald

Anniversaries: Theresa Ramsden, Donald Maclean, Charles Falconer