

St Columba's Portree Newsletter

Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Argyll and The Isles
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General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church: SC015962 Charity Number: SC020146

Welcome to our visitors and parishioners

St Columba's, Portree

Eucharist each Sunday at 11am.

1st Sunday of the month – All Age Worship.

Morning Prayer every Sunday and Wednesday at 10am.

Candlelit Taizé Hour is held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

The chants are simple and the silent

meditation periods between each song are short.

Contemplative Prayer is held 3rd Tuesday at 11am.

The Church is open daily 10am to 3pm.

St Michael and All Angels, Raasay

Eucharist 11am on 2nd Tuesday and one Sunday as arranged all at Ceòl-na-Mara unless otherwise stated.

St Mary's, Sleat

Liturgy of the Word and Communion or Eucharist 5.30pm on 2nd Sunday of each month in the Parish Rooms of the Church of Scotland, Kilmore.

Intercessions, Prayers and Thanksgivings

Everyday St Columba's is open for Prayer.

A book is on the table at the rear of the church for any prayer requests.

Opening letter from Rev'd Rosemary

Dear Friends in Christ,

Although we have journeyed together for many years, Sunday 17th February was for us all a change of direction. Having been greatly supported by many of the congregation through training and curacy, I was honoured to be licensed as Priest in Charge of St Columba's, St Mary's, Sleat and St Michael and All Angels, Isle of Raasay. This took the charge out of vacancy with Bishop Kevin as our Interim Rector, the position since Rev'd Robert Breaden demitted office in November 2012. It was a joy to welcome Robert and Rev'd Canon Sister Clare who had been my training priest throughout Curacy, to the Service.

The Licensing Service was very inspiring with the congregation also renewing their commitment to the work of God in our church and area. Bishop Kevin's sermon focused on the words of Jesus found in the Gospel of John 20:17 *Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.* Bishop Kevin spoke of the importance of 'letting go', letting go of the past so that we can move on in the Mission of God, in the presence of God, led by the Holy Spirit.

The Lay Leaders of our charge, Steve Fennell, Robert MacDonald and Stephen Plant give continual support in leading worship and in pastoral care and are to be relicensed for a period of two years. Their help is vital and is much appreciated as there is far too much for one person to cover with a geographical area as big as Skye and Raasay.

As we move towards Lent, a time of reconciliation and preparation for the great Christian Festival of Easter when we celebrate the Risen Christ, it is a good time for us each personally to reflect on our own relationship with God. Are there things that get in the way, things which we need to let go?

Part of our Lent journey this year will focus on the book and film "The Shack", a truly inspiring work which highlights the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a man suffering after a family tragedy.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal this year is for the Aberlour Trust. Further details of the trust are to be found later in this newsletter. Please save your spare coins in a jar for this very necessary work this Lent and bring to church at Easter.

Where will the Holy Spirit lead us personally and as a church family here on Skye and Raasay? Exciting times are ahead....

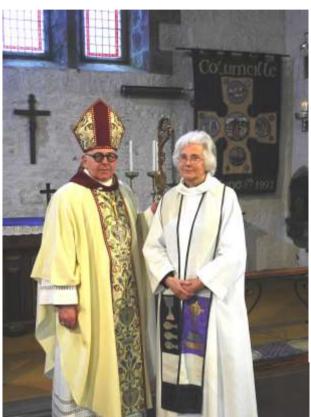
May we rejoice in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ who died for our sins, was buried and rose again for each one of us so that we may have eternal life with our Father who loves each one of us personally.

God bless you all

Rosemary

The Rev'd Rosemary Bungard

A few photographs from Rev'd Rosemary's Licensing Service, 17th February 2019







Journey Through Lent

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT In addition to regular services

Ash Wednesday 6th March

10am Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist

Sun 15th March 1 – 3.30 Film "The Shack"

Mon 25th March Feast of the Annunciation 11am Eucharist 11.45 Reflection on "The Shack"

Thurs 11th April 10.30am Bible Study

Sun 14th April 11am

Distribution of Palms & Eucharist

Tues 16th April 11am Contemplative Prayer

Thurs 18th April 7pm Washing of Feet, Eucharist & Watch

Fri 19th April 12 noon Watch 2pm Good Friday Liturgy

Sat 20th April 10am Morning Prayer 10.30 Easter Vigil Readings

Lent

We hear the word 'lent' used frequently by people - with many, rather jokily. 'What are *you* giving up for Lent', they'll say. Usually it's a bit of a competition -who can do without chocolate, or wine or whatever. What they usually don't think about, is whether or not there is some spiritual importance attached to this period.

In the reformed churches, and particularly in the Presbyterian congregations, it tends to be viewed with some measure of suspicion - it smacks just a wee bit of Rome! So, it is interesting to look at this season which stretches for six and a half weeks before Easter to see just what it is all about. It is a time to focus on the suffering, death and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Because Jesus died, and thus paid for our sins, we have life. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we too will rise and enjoy heaven forever.

Lent is a process of prayer and spiritual renewal. The Lenten season emphasises one's need to cultivate the interior life through self-reflection, fasting, alms giving and prayer.

The word "lent" means "lengthen" and stands for that time in spring when the days grow longer.

The original period of Lent was 40 hours. It was spent fasting to commemorate the suffering of Christ and the 40 hours He spent in the tomb. In the early 3rd century, Lent was lengthened to 6 days. The 6 days grew into 36 days (36 being the tithe or a tenth of the 365 days of the year). About 800 AD it changed to 40 days – the extra days being Ash Wednesday and the three following days running up to the 1st Sunday in Lent. Sundays are not included in those 40 days.

Shrove Tuesday marked the last day before the beginning of Lent. On this day all perishable foods such as eggs, had to be used (hence the mass cooking of pancakes!). Then Lent started on Ash Wednesday.

Although Lent does not appear in the Bible, fasting does - several times and, it is interesting to note that the documented times of trial in the Bible always lasted for 40 days. So, the number 40 seems to have some significance.

In the time of Noah, the rain lasted for 40 days causing the mighty flood.

Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days (Exodus 24;18.)

Jonah was told to give the people of Nineveh 40 days to repent. (Jonah 3:4)

Elijah travelled 40 days in the desert after fleeing from Jezebel ((1 Kings 19)

Jesus was in the desert fasting for 40 days and being tempted by Satan before he began His ministry.

So, as in the Bible, many Christians spend the forty days of Lent, in preparing themselves to rejoice in the Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Perhaps it would be good, to follow the Lord's example in the desert by giving up luxuries, practising self-discipline and putting aside more time for prayer - letting God into our lives.

It is interesting to note that this forty-day period of fasting occurs in other ancient cultures as well. In pagan idol worship there was a god called Tammuz who, according to myth, died in the spring. It was necessary for the people to weep and lament for him and to fast for forty days (a day for each year he had lived on earth) in order to bring him back to life again. If he did not come back to life, the crops would not grow. It's interesting that this god, Tammuz is mentioned in the Book of Ezekial 8:13,14.

He also said unto me, 'Turn thee yet again and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.' Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord's house which was towards the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

Here God calls the worship of Tammuz an abomination.

So, should we fast? Several verses in the Bible indicate that fasting is a good thing to do. Listen to the Word of the Lord.

'Moreover, when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.' (Matthew 6:16-18).

But will God like us better if we fast? God's love and his promise of immortality is not something that we earn by our outward show of religiosity. It is a gift of God which we receive when we believe His Word.

For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. (Isaiah 66:2)

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

There are many traditions associated with Lent that are historically very interesting and they put into perspective 'special' events like Mother's Day or 'Mothering Sunday' as it was originally called - not the Mother's Day invented by our cousins across the Pond!

Mothering Sunday is a time when children pay respect to their mothers. It is not a fixed day because it is always the middle Sunday of Lent. Mothering Sunday was also known as 'Refreshment Sunday', Pudding Pie Sunday (in Surrey) or mid-Lent Sunday. It was a day in Lent when the fasting rules were relaxed, in honour of the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand'.

It is known that, in the 16th century, people made a point of visiting their nearest big church (The Mother Church) in which each person was baptised. Cathedrals were the 'mother churches' of all the other churches in the area and people who had visited their mother church would say that they had gone 'a-mothering'.

Young girls in service in the local manor house were only allowed one day to visit their families each year. This was usually on Mothering Sunday. For some this could be a significant journey since indentured servants often had work far from home, often in a different town. Often the housekeeper would allow the maids to bake a cake to take home to their mothers.

'I'll to thee a Simnell bring
'Gainst thou go'st a mothering,
So that, when she blesseth thee,
Half that blessing thou'lt give to me.'

The Simnel Cake is a fruit cake. A flat marzipan layer is placed on top and is decorated with 11 marzipan balls representing the 12 apostles, minus Judas. The cake was not eaten on Mothering Sunday because of the rules of Lent, instead it was saved until Easter Day. Nowadays it is commonly baked and Eaten on Easter Day.

If you feel like baking a Simnel cake, there's a recipe at the end of this piece.

Lent ends, officially, the Wednesday of Holy Week. The Thursday of Holy Week is known as Maundy Thursday - the day before Good Friday. It is the day when Our Lord celebrated the Passover in the Upper Room with his 12 disciples. It is the day when He washed His disciples' feet. It is the day when he took the bread and the wine and shared it with them. It is the day in which he was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane and handed over to the authorities.

Many people puzzle over the word 'Maundy'. It is in fact a corruption of the Latin word 'mandatum' - from which we get the English word 'mandate' and of course, 'commandment' and refers to Jesus' commandment to His disciples at the Last Supper,

'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' John13:34

The custom of washing feet by the Monarch was carried out in England until 1689. Up till then the King or Queen would wash the feet of the poor on Maundy Thursday in Westminster Abbey. Food and clothing were also distributed to the poor. It is however interesting to note the feet had first been washed by the Yeomen of the laundry before the monarch had to wash them and kiss them!

Nowadays the Maundy Thursday ceremony still takes place, with the Queen giving Maundy money to a group of pensioners. The tradition of the sovereign giving money to the poor dates from the 13th century, from the reign of Edward 1.

From the 15th century, the number of Maundy coins handed out and the number of recipients was the same as the sovereign's age. The recipients of the specially minted coins are all retired pensioners recommended by clergy and ministers of all denominations, in recognition of service to the Church and to the community.

Simnel Cake

8oz (225) soft margarine 8oz muscovado sugar 2oz mixed peel, chopped 4 eggs grated rind of 2 lemons 8oz S R Flour 2 teaspoons mixed spice 8oz sultanas

Filling & Topping; _
1lb almond paste
4oz currants
2 tablespoons apricot jam,
1 egg
4 oz Glace cherries (beaten, to glaze)

Pre-heat oven to 150°C/300°F. Grease and line base of 8 inch round or square deep tin. Measure all ingredients into large bowl. Beat well till thoroughly blended. Place half mixture in to the prepared tin and level surface. Take one third of paste and roll in to a circle the size of the tin and place on top of the cake mixture. Spoon rest of cake mixture on top and level. Bake in oven for about 2 hours until well risen, evenly brown and firm to touch. Cover with foil if browning too quickly. Allow the cake to cool for 10mins before turning out to cool on wire rack. When the cake is cool brush the top with a little warmed apricot jam. Roll out the remaining paste to fit the top. Press firmly and crimp the edges to decorate. Make criss- cross pattern on top with a sharp knife. Form the remaining paste into 11 balls to represent the Apostles (not counting Judas). Brush almond paste with the beaten egg and arrange balls on the outside. Brush balls with beaten egg And place under a hot grill to turn the almond paste golden. Decorate with crystallized primroses or violets, if liked.



The Chapel of St John the Baptist, Caroy, Isle of Skye

The Chapel Of St John the Baptist, on the shores of Loch Caroy, is Skye's first Episcopal church and was founded by Macleod of Gesto in 1838. It stopped being used as a place Of worship around 1855. Now roofless, the simple rubble structure is dominated by a large, pointed window on its east gable. The peaceful wooded burial ground, which is still in use, has various decorative iron enclosures including a pair of ornamental wrought iron memorial gates installed in 1958.

By 2018 the approaches to the chapel were in a dangerous condition and made visits hazardous. However, a generous donation from the Martin family has resulted in a much-improved access.

The following photographs illustrate the work that has been so expertly and conscientiously carried out during November 2018 by J, L&D of Raasay.







After





On being Politically Correct!

We are constantly being made aware of 'political correctness, these days but the concept is not new. Looking through some documents from twenty-odd years ago I came across this, somewhat tongue in cheek transcription of the Lord's Prayer, written by a Canadian minister, the Rev. Kenneth Scott of Thornhill, Ontario, about whom I know absolutely nothing but suspect he was being persecuted by some extremely zealous and hypercritical members of his flock.

It reads as follows: -

Our universal chairperson in outer space, your identity enjoys the highest rating on a prioritised selectivity scale. May your sphere of influence take on reality parameters; may your mindset be implemented on this planet as in outer space. Allot to us, at this point in time, and on a per diem basis, a sufficient and balanced dietary food intake, and rationalise a disclaimer against our negative feedback; as we rationalise a disclaimer against negative feedback of others. And deprogram our negative potentialities but desensitise the impact of the counter-productive force. For yours is the dominant sphere of influence, the ultimate capability, and the highest qualitative analysis rating, at this point in time and extending beyond a limited time-frame. End of message.

Choosing your Cross

The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out he dropped to his knees in prayer. 'Lord, I can't go on', he said. 'My cross is too heavy to bear'.

The Lord replied, 'My son, if you can't bear its weight, just come into this room and place your cross upon the floor. You will find other crosses there - choose any other cross you wish'. The man was filled with relief. 'Thank you, Lord,' he sighed and did as he was bid. He took his own heavy cross off and walked carefully up and down, looking at all the other crosses. He was appalled by what he found. Some were so large that their tops were not visible, others roughhewn so that splinters stuck out like spikes.

He picked up one that seemed to fit him well, 'I'd like this one, Lord' he whispered.

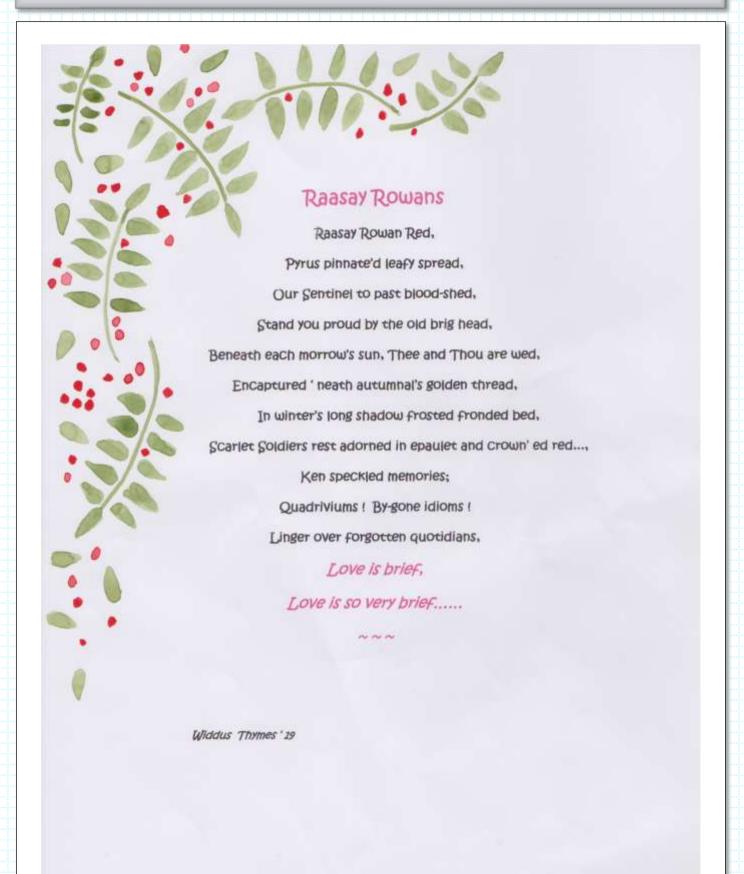
The Lord replied, 'My son, that is the cross you just brought in'.

When life's problems seem overwhelming to you, it helps to look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself far more fortunate than you imagined. But, whatever your cross, whatever your pain, God is always there for you. He tells us to cast his cares upon Him because He cares for us. He wants to be your rock and your shield, your place of refuge. He will guard you like a mother hen hides her chicks under her wing.

'Cast all your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall.' *Psalm* 55:22

'Cast all your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall.' Psalm 55:22

Raasay Rowans



The Bishop's Lent Appeal

The Bishop's Lent appeal for 2018 is the Aberlour Child Care Trust, Scotland's children's charity.

At Aberlour, we believe that all children deserve to flourish. We are there for children, young people and families across Scotland, helping transform lives for the better.

We listen: Our services are tailored to help each child, young person or family to be the very best they can be. We support them to overcome significant challenges like growing up in and leaving care, living with a disability and dealing with the impact of drugs and alcohol on family life. We offer support at the earliest opportunity: Giving children the best possible start in life is at the heart of everything we do.

Our vision is to transform the lives of the children and families we work with and, through this, contribute to building a fairer and more equal society.

More details can be found on our website www.aberlour.org.uk

Aberlour Child Care Trust, 36 Park Terrace, Stirling, FK8 2JR Scottish Charity no: SC007991 Guarantee Company no: SC312912 Tel: 0800 0856150 Fax: 01786 473238

St Columba's Bread Basket Come and Join Us

Open every Wednesday 11am to 2pm

2 course lunch and drinks available

All are Welcome

Bread Basket – the last three months charity donations have gone to the Skye Food Bank, Teen Challenge UK at Benaiah and Crossroads Care.

We are now open every week for those who want

Company, Warmth and Friendship.

Rosemary is generally available for anyone requiring a private chat.

If you would like to help out or contribute, we are always delighted to have offers of help especially for holiday cover.

St Columba's Vestry 2019

Vestry work over the past 3 months

New members Jackie and Muriel were welcomed to vestry. Training using prepared resources will be for all vestry from March for 4 months.

The new flags and stand to be re-instated after the Christmas decorations were removed as they honour the dead and do not glorify war.

Arrangements for Bishop Kevin's visit were prepared.

Donations from Bread Basket were made to Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association, Skye Food Bank, Benaiah (Teen Challenge).

Nine Lessons and Carols were discussed, the collection to be in aid of Targeting Ovarian Cancer. Christingle was enjoyed by children and adults.

Travel arrangements for Synod and Lay Leaders Meetings – policy guidelines drawn up, to manage expenses.

Arrangements were made for the essential roof survey and report. Use of the car park will be monitored especially while building work in the vicinity is in progress.

Preparations for Lent were suggested—the film "The Shack" alongside the book for discussion.

Bread Basket held a successful Christmas lunch. Donations will go to Crossroads Care, Counselling care, Christian Aid over the next few months.

Emergency repairs to dangerous roofing slates and damaged gutters and downpipes have been made. The high-level roof survey is to be undertaken in March. Emergency and security lights have been replaced. Problems with the new heating are being investigated.

An extra vestry meeting was held with Bishop Kevin prior to the Service of Licensing Rev'd Rosemary as Priest in Charge. He thinks the future "Looks Exciting".

Beth Edwards Secretary to the Vestry

Chair Rev'd Rosemary Bungard

Lay Representative Stephen Plant

Alternate Lay Representative Chrissanne MacInnes

Secretary
Treasurer
Beth Edwards
John Henderson
Elected Members
Robert MacDonald

Jackie Torrance Muriel Watson

Tony Wilkinson
Co-opted Members Val Corey

Steve Fennell

General Notices

Car Drivers

Occasionally some members of our congregation need transport to enable them to come and worship with us. It would be very helpful to have a few volunteers who could be called upon to offer this service. Please talk to Beth or Rosemary if you would like to be involved.

Volunteers needed

Help needed! We are short of volunteers for the following Church Duties

Leading intercessions during the Sunday service - Training can be offered

Providing and arranging Flowers in Church

We would welcome offers from people willing to make a cake for Bread Basket on a rota basis.

Gift Aid Envelopes

Our Gift Aid Coordinator requests that people donating in this scheme check that they have paid sufficient tax in the last tax year to cover their donations.

Youth Group

Are you High School age? Do you have a church connection? Would you like to have fun in a friendly safe environment? Then this is for you! Youth Group now meets twice a month, when possible, in our Parish Rooms. For more details see Rev'd Rosemary

Newsletter Publication

Our next quarterly Newsletter will be published in May.

Weekly duties are published on the pew sheet which is available weekly.

The duty rota is available at the back of the church. Please offer your services for Reading, Welcoming, Flowers and Refreshments after the Sunday Service.

Volunteers for leading intercessions are also welcomed – please see Rosemary for this.

Food Bank & Used Spectacles

We are continuing our collections for the Skye Food Bank and for used spectacles which the Edinburgh Lions Club grade and send out to Africa for reuse. In addition to Used spectacles, we are collecting old mobile phones for Forgotten Veterans. Any information found stored on phones will be put onto a CD and returned to the donor before info is deleted from the phone.

Boxes for these collections are in church.

Portree Tea and Tots

The tiny tots Group has relaunched with a new name to reflect that it caters for more than just babies! The group meets at St Columba's on a Friday from 1.30 - 3pm.

St Columba's Church Calendar

2.30pm 10am 11am 10am 7.30pm 10am 11am 3.00pm 5.30pm 10am 10am 11am 1pm 11am
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St Columba's Church Calendar

May		
Wed 1 st	Morning Prayer	10am
	Taizé Hour	7.30pm
Sun 5 th	Morning Prayer	10am
	All Age Communion	11am
Wed 8 th	Morning Prayer	10am
Sun 12 th	Morning Prayer	10am
	Eucharist	11am
	Budhmor Service	3pm
	St Mary's Eucharist	5.30pm
Tues 14th	St Michael & All Angels Eucharist	11am
Wed 15 th	Morning Prayer	10am
Sun 19 th	Morning Prayer	10am
	Eucharist	11am
Tues 21st	Contemplative Prayer	11am
Wed 22 nd	Morning Prayer	10am
Sun 26 th	Morning Prayer	10am
	Communion Service	11am
	St Michael & All Angels Eucharist	11am
Wed 29 th	Morning Prayer	10am
Thurs 30 th	Ascension Day Eucharist	11am

Other Events at St Columba's

Month

Wednesday	Bread Basket	11 - 2
Mon	Vestry Meeting	10am
18 Mar, 13		
May		
Friday	Portree Tea & Tots+	1.30 – 3.00
Some	Youth Group	7 – 8.45pm
Saturdays		-
Tues 12 th	Diocesan Conference and Chrism Mass	From 9.30
March		
Wed 13 th	Diocesan Synod	From 9am
March		

Readings

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
Sunday before Lent 3 rd March	Exodus 34.29-35 Psalm 99 2 Cor 3.12 – 4.2 Luke 9.28-36	Good Friday 19 th April	Is 52.13 – 53.12 Ps 22 Heb 10.16-25 Jn.18.1 – 19.42
Ash Wednesday 6 th March	Isaiah 58.1-12 Psalm 51.1-18 2 Cor. 5.20b-6.10 Mt 6.1-6, 16-21	Holy Saturday 20 th April	To be confirmed
1 st Sunday of Lent 10 th March	Deut 26.1-11 Ps 91.1-2, 9-16 Ro 10.8b-13 Luke 4.1-13	Easter Sunday 21 st April	Acts 10.34-43 Ps 118.1-2, 14-24 1 Cor 15.19-26 Jn 20.1-18
2nd Sunday of Lent 17th March	Gen 15.1-12,17-18 Ps 27 Phil 3.17-4.1 Luke 13.31-35	2 nd Sunday of Easter 28 th April	Acts 5.27-32 Ps 118.14-29 Rev 1.4-8 Jn 20.19-31
3 rd Sunday of Lent 24 th March	Is 55.1-9 Ps 63.1-8 1 Cor.10.1-13 Luke 13.1-9	3rd Sunday of Easter 5th May	Acts 9.1-6 Ps 30 Rev 5.11-14 Jn 21.1-19
The Annunciation of the Lord 25 th March	Is 7.10-14 Ps 40.5-11 Heb 10.4-10 Luke 1.26-38	4th Sunday of Easter Vocations Sunday	Acts 9.36-43 Ps 23 Rev 7.9-17 Jn 10.22-30
4 th Sunday of Lent 31 st March	Joshua 5.9-12 Ps 32 2 Cor. 5.16-21 Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32	12th May 5th Sunday of Easter 19th May	Acts 11.1-18 Ps 148 Rev 21.1-6 Jn 13.31-35
Passion Sunday 7 th April	Is 43.16-21 Ps 126 Phil 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8	6th Sunday of Easter 26th May	Acts 16.9-15 Ps 67 Rev 21.10, 22 – 22.5 Jn 14.23-29
Palm Sunday 14th April	Liturgy of the Palms Luke 19.28-40 Ps 118.1-2, 19-29 Liturgy of the Passion Is 50.4-9a Ps 31.9-16 Phil 2.5-11 Luke 22.14 – 23.56	Ascension Day 30th May	Acts 1.1-11 Ps 47 Eph 1.15-23 Luke 24.44-53
Maundy Thursday 18th April	Ex.12.1-4,11-14 Ps 116.1,10-17 1 Cor 11.23-26 John 13.1-17,31b-35		

Contact Us

St Columba's

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General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church: SC015962 Charity Number: SC020146

Dolly Parrot Productions Kildonan, Isle of Skye. March 2019

