



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

12 JANUARY 2020:
BAPTISM OF THE LORD
(Year A (II); Psalter: Week I)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
 Psalm: Ps 28 (29): 1-4, 9-10
 2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34-38
 Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 12 January	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (p. 128) Second Collection: Justice and Peace	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 14 January	Tuesday of Week 1 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Isobel Watson R.I.P. (4th Anniversary on 2 January)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 15 January	Wednesday of Week 1 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 16 January	Thursday of Week 1 in Ordinary Time Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 17 January	Saint Antony, Abbot Mass Intention: Private Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon
Saturday 18 January	Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation ** Rosary ** Mass	10.15 am 10.40 am 11.00 am
Sunday 19 January	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (p. 693) Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

The Baptism of the Lord: Bridging the Gap between God and Humanity

Today, the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, the Gospel (Mt 3:13-17) describes the scene which occurred at the River Jordan: Jesus, too, is in the midst of the penitent crowd which approaches John the Baptist to receive baptism. He stood in line. John would like to prevent him from [being baptized], saying: "I need to be baptized by you" (3:14). The Baptist, indeed, is aware of the great distance there is between him and Jesus. But Jesus has come precisely to bridge the gap between man and God: if He is completely on God's side, He is also completely on mankind's side, and reunites what had been separated. For this reason he asks John to baptize him, so that all righteousness may be fulfilled (cf. v. 15), namely, that the plan of God may be fulfilled, the plan which passes by way of obedience and solidarity with fragile and sinful mankind, the way of humility and of God's full closeness to his children. Because God is very close to us, very close!

At the moment in which Jesus, baptized by John, comes out of the waters of the River Jordan, the voice of God the Father is heard from on high: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (v. 17). At the same time the Holy Spirit,

in the form of a dove, alights upon Jesus, who publicly begins his mission of salvation; a mission characterized by a manner: the way of a humble and gentle servant, armed only with the power of truth, as Isaiah had prophesied: "He will not cry or lift up his voice, ... a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice" (42:2-3). A humble and gentle servant.

This is Jesus' way, as well as the manner of Christ's disciples' missionary work: To proclaim the Gospel with gentleness, but also firmness, without shouting, without reprimanding anyone, but gently and firmly, without arrogance or imposition. The true mission is never proselytism, but drawing people to Christ. But how? How is this attraction to Christ achieved? With one's own witness, starting from the unwavering union with him in prayer, in adoration and in concrete works of charity, which is service to Jesus present in the least of his brothers and sisters. In imitation of Jesus, the good and merciful Shepherd, and moved by his grace, we are called to make our life a joyous testimony that illuminates the way, that brings hope and love. (Pope Francis, 8/1/2017).

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy (CTS Sunday Missal) – The Baptism of the Lord, Year A (p. 128):

p. 521: Introductory Rites

p. 128: Readings and Proper Prayers

p. 541: Creed

pp. 131-2: Preface of the Baptism of the Lord

p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II

p. 631: Communion Rite

Exploring our new Sunday Missal, Part 1:

DID YOU KNOW that your new Sunday Missal contains a number of prayers on pp. 508 ff., to help you prepare for Mass? There are **prayers before Mass**, and **before receiving Holy Communion** (p. 511). The Missal also contains **Prayers of Thanksgiving** after Mass. Why not make a

spiritual resolution in this new year, to **arrive 5 minutes earlier** than normal for Mass, to take the opportunity to prepare yourself prayerfully for the liturgy? While you're at it, an **extra 5 minutes at the end of Mass** – before you dash off home, or head to the Meeting Room for a cup of tea and home bakes! – will give you the opportunity to offer Thanksgiving to the Lord for the graces you have received: for His holy word in Sacred Scripture, and for the Holy Eucharist, the 'source and summit of the Christian life'?

Today's Second Collection is for Justice and Peace Scotland. The National Commission for Justice and Peace advises the Scottish Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in matters relating to social justice, international peace and human rights, and promotes action in these areas. For further information, see: www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

Thank you to our kind benefactors for the donations made to the parish: we have recently received gifts of £50, £120, and £300. Your kindness is greatly appreciated! God bless you!

Youth Mass at St. Columba's! – We will be organising a Mass, planned for next month, led by young people from our parish and the Highland Deanery. This will be the first of a number of different occasions, to be held throughout the Deanery for our young people, to come together and to share their enthusiasm and talent through the medium of music! We would like our own youth here at St. Columba's to have a good representation in the Mass: in the music group (playing an instrument or singing), in reading, and so on. There will be short practices after Sunday Mass to learn new hymns. If you would like to be involved, please see David or Fr. Domenico, or wait behind after Mass to join the musicians and

singers. No specialist experience required! Why not come along and try it?

House Blessings – if you would like to have your house blessed at the beginning of this new year (new decade!), please leave a message for Fr. Domenico in the Sacristy with your name, postal address, and contact details, or send a message to the parish e-mail address. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION CLASS THIS THURSDAY: the next class is on Thursday 16 January, at 6.30pm, and lasting for 30 minutes. If you have any difficulty getting to class, just let Ewen or Helen know.

Highland Foodbank: November to January – Your donations help to provide emergency food and support to local people in crisis. As part of their Winter Appeal, the Highland Foodbank would be grateful for donations of the following items: * **Cartons of Long Life Fruit Juice** * **Small Washing Powder/Gel** * **Tins of Corned Beef** * **Tins of Ham** * **Jam**. Please leave these items in the box at the front door of the church. Thank you!

CLEANING TEAM – Monday 13th January at 12 noon: Marie and Don. Would you like to help out too?! See Don for details.

90 CLUB fees are due again! The next draw will be held on 28 January. There are a few numbers available if anyone would like one, with three great prizes to be won; please ask Don.

FUNDRAISER BINGO – continues on **Friday 31 January at 7.00pm**. You are all welcome to join us! Your generosity with the items we give as prizes has made this fundraiser so successful and popular! Thank you for your continuing support!

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE: The **THIRD** prize has still not been claimed. It belongs to 'TA' or 'JA' from Woodside Drive. Is this you?! If so, please see Don!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Angus Johnson + Michael Good + Laura Johnstone + Norman Wood + Alec Mackintosh + Katie Mary Fraser + John Smith + Stuart MacLennan + John Daniel Peteranna + Jeanette Catto +

R.I.P: + John MacDonald + John McDonald + Raymond Horne + Timothy Neville +

Anniversaries: + Audrey O'Connell + Mollie Pocock + Robert Gibson + Ewen Macdonald + Moira Cook +