



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

13 DECEMBER 2020:
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
'GAUDETE SUNDAY'
(Year B (I); Psalter: Week 3)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54
2nd Reading: 1 Thess 5: 16-24
Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 13 December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'GAUDETE SUNDAY' (p. 53 – Year B) Retiring Collection: Mary's Meals	LIVE-STREAMED PUBLIC MASS PUBLIC MASS	9.30 am 11.00 am
Monday 14 December	St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor Mass Intention: Anne & Theo Antoine	Live-Streamed Public Mass	9.30 am
Tuesday 15 December	Tuesday of Week 3 of Advent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Live-Streamed Public Mass	9.30 am
Wednesday 16 December	Wednesday of Week 3 of Advent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Live-Streamed Public Mass	9.30 am
Thursday 17 December	Of the Day Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Live-Streamed Public Mass	9.30 am
Friday 18 December	Of the Day Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Live-Streamed Public Mass	9.30 am
Saturday 19 December	Of the Day Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Live-Streamed Public Mass	9.30 am
Sunday 20 December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (p. 57 – Year B) Retiring Collection: Building Fund	LIVE-STREAMED PUBLIC MASS PUBLIC MASS	9.30 am 11.00 am

Third Sunday of Advent: One who is Coming

The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week's readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he is, we see in today's Gospel, is best understood by who he isn't. He is not Elijah returned from the heavens (see 2 Kings 2:11), although like him he dresses in the prophet's attire (see Mark 1:6; 2 Kings 1:8) and preaches repentance and judgment (see 1 Kings 18:21; 2 Chronicles 21:12–15). Not Elijah in the flesh, John is nonetheless sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to fulfil his mission (see Luke 1:17; Malachi 3:23–24). Neither is John the prophet Moses foretold, although he is a kinsman and speaks God's word (see Deuteronomy 18:15–19; John 6:14). Nor is John the Messiah, though he has been anointed by the Spirit since he was in the womb (see Luke 1:15, 44). John prepares the way for the Lord (see Isaiah 40:3). The baptism he performs is symbolic, not

sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance.

John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains (see John 1:32), the One who fulfils the promise we hear in today's First Reading (see Luke 4:16–21). Jesus' bath of rebirth and the Spirit opens a fountain that purifies Israel and gives to all a new heart and a new Spirit (see Zechariah 13:1–3; Ezekiel 36:24–27; Mark 1:8; Titus 3:5).

John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light, that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas. As we sing in today's Responsorial, the Mighty One has come to lift each of us up, to fill our hunger with bread from heaven (see John 6:33, 49–51).

And as Paul exhorts in today's Second Reading, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body—that we may be blameless when our Lord comes. (Scott Hahn)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy (CTS New Sunday Missal): Third Sunday of Advent, Yr. B (p. 53)

p. 521: Introductory Rites

p. 53: Readings & Proper Prayers

p. 543: Apostles' Creed

p. 549: Preface: Advent I: The Two Comings of Christ

p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II

p. 631: Communion Rite

"I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to God's House!" (Psalm 121/122) – St. Columba's is open every day for Mass at 9.30am. Fr. Domenico will continue to offer two Masses each Sunday: at 9.30am (which will also be live-streamed) and at 11.00am. To book a seat(s) for Mass next Sunday, here are the links:

20 December 9.30am:

<https://mass-at-st-columbas-culloden-20-12-2020-0930am.eventbrite.co.uk>

20 December 11.00am:

<https://mass-at-st-columbas-culloden-20-12-2020-1100am.eventbrite.co.uk>

Please note that seats for both Masses will be available to book online from Sunday 13 December at 12 noon. If you have a problem or query, please contact Fr. Domenico; he will happily book a seat for you!

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2020:

VIGIL MASS: Thursday 24 December at 7.30pm:

*** THIS MASS IS NOW FULLY BOOKED ***

CHRISTMAS DAY Masses (Friday 25 December):

10.30am and 12 noon: Some seats still available **

You **MUST** book in advance.

Please e-mail or phone Fr. Domenico to reserve a seat.

OUR RETIRING COLLECTION: MARY'S MEALS – today, we support the initiative of our 'local' charity, Mary's Meals, with its 'Big Family Christmas' campaign. This year, the cost of a typical Christmas dinner could be up to £20 per person. But by setting a place at Mary's Meals virtual table, **for just £15.90 you can help feed a child** at a place of education in some of the world's poorest communities **for an entire school year**. And it gets even better! **Give until 31 January 2021 and your donation will be doubled by the UK government**, up to £2 million – meaning that Mary's Meals can reach even more hungry children in Liberia with life-changing school meals. Thanks to 'Double The Love', your donation will now feed two children for a whole school year with Mary's Meals for the sum of just £15.90!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RESOURCES: In other years, we would celebrate the feast of St. Lucy today. Ewen has accordingly provided more wonderful

resources for our children, which focus on St. Lucy, and theme of the light. This 'light' reflects the *Lux mundi*, Jesus Christ the Light of the World, who will soon be with us. Many thanks as ever, Ewen, for your hard work and dedication to our children's liturgy! Please feel free to take one of these packs for your children or grandchildren.

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT – In his latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis encourages us to show compassion to our brothers and sisters. Specifically, he asks us to welcome, protect, promote and integrate refugees fleeing tragic situations (#129). In response, a group of parishioners from the Highlands are planning to take advantage of the Home Office's Community Resettlement Programme to sponsor one Syrian family to come to the Inverness area. We are currently looking to set up a steering group to take this forward. If you would like to get involved with this project, please contact Jill Kent at: welcometohighland@gmail.com

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT!

Given the current restrictions and the need to ensure proper control of potential virus transmission, there will be no Christmas Carol Concert at St. Columba's.. HOWEVER, we will have a VIRTUAL CONCERT, via Zoom!! This will take place on **Monday 21 December at 7.00pm**. Everyone is invited to join us for a virtual concert of Christmas Scripture Readings, Carols, Guest Appearances (!), and more! Feel free to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine, from the comfort of your own homes! **For details of the Zoom link, please get in touch with Fr. Domenico.**

90 Club: Last Draw of the Year on Sunday 27 December. We are still looking for some catch-up payments; please speak to Fr. Domenico. Similarly, contributions for 2021 can now be handed in (only £2 a month). Would you like to take part too?

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Michael Good, Laura Johnstone, Katie Mary Fraser, Norman Wood, Stuart MacLennan, John Macdonald, Evelyn MacGregor, Rena Herbison, Alex Fruters, Patrick Macpherson, Kathleen Macpherson, Ricci Hudson-Storey, June Lee, Marian Ellis, James Mochan

RIP: Lily Finlay + Max Bankcroft + Calum Grant +

Anniversaries: + Joe Smith + Gerry Brown + Kerry Green +