



St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW
Tel: (01463) 794619 / (01463) 233519
e-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com
website: <http://www.stcolumbasculloden.org>
Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Dr Helen Macdonald



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

13TH DECEMBER 2015
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
('GAUDETE SUNDAY'), YEAR C

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18
Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6
2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 13 December	Third Sunday of Advent, Year C	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30
Tuesday 15 December	Tuesday in the Third Week of Advent	Mass	19.30
Wednesday 16 December	Wednesday in the Third Week of Advent	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Thursday 17 December	Thursday in the Third Week of Advent	Mass	19.30
Friday 18 December	Friday in the Third Week of Advent	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00 11.30
Sunday 20 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lady Chapel) Mass	09.00 09.30

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available 30 minutes before each Mass.

Excerpt of Pope Francis' Homily for the Inauguration of the Year of Mercy (8 December)

This Extraordinary Holy Year is ... a gift of grace. To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them. This will be a year in which we grow ever more convinced of God's mercy. How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished his judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy! But that is the truth. We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event God's judgement will always be in the light of his mercy. In passing through the Holy Door, then, may we feel that we ourselves are part of this mystery of love. Let us set aside all fear and dread, for these do not befit men and women who are loved. Instead, let us experience the joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things.

"Today, as we pass through the Holy Door, we also want to remember another door, which fifty years ago the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council opened to the world. This anniversary cannot be remembered only for the legacy of the

Council's documents, which testify to a great advance in faith. Before all else, the Council was an encounter. A genuine encounter between the Church and the men and women of our time. An encounter marked by the power of the Spirit, who impelled the Church to emerge from the shoals which for years had kept her self-enclosed so as to set out once again, with enthusiasm, on her missionary journey. It was the resumption of a journey of encountering people where they live: in their cities and homes, in their workplaces. Wherever there are people, the Church is called to reach out to them and to bring the joy of the Gospel. After these decades, we again take up this missionary drive with the same power and enthusiasm. The Jubilee challenges us to this openness, and demands that we not neglect the spirit which emerged from Vatican II, the spirit of the Samaritan, as Blessed Paul VI expressed it at the conclusion of the Council. May our passing through the Holy Door today commit us to making our own the mercy of the Good Samaritan.

GENERAL NEWS

Jubilee Year of Mercy: Inaugural Opening of the Holy Doors at St Mary's, Inverness, on Monday 14 December at 7.00pm. Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB will be presiding at this Mass, together with Priests from throughout the Deanery. All welcome.

Jubilee Year of Mercy: Fr James Bell will be offering the second of his talks on “**St Luke's Gospel of Mercy**, in the **Marian Room**, at 32 Huntly Street, on **Friday 18 December, at 7.00pm**.

Hogmanay Party! – Come along and usher in the New Year in style, at the grand Hogmanay Party in St Mary's Hall, on Thursday 31 December, from 8.00pm until 2.30am! Live music from The Brothers Band and DJ Coli. Food will be available, but please feel free to bring along something to eat and drink (NO bar). Dress code: formal. Ticket prices: £20.00 per person. Tickets are available at the back of St Mary's church, after each Sunday Mass, and also from the Parish Office; contact PJ on 01463 233519.

PARISH NEWS

Mass Times over the Festive Season:

Thurs 24 December: Carols 11.00pm; Vigil Mass 11.30pm
Fri 25 December: Christmas Day Mass 10.30am
Sun 27 December (The Holy Family): Mass at 9.30am
Friday 1 January (Mary, Mother of God): Mass at 11.00am
Sunday 3 January (The Epiphany): Mass at 9.30am

A Big 'Thank you'! .. to all concerned for making our **Christmas Carol Service** such a success. Over two hundred people were packed into St Columba's for a very entertaining evening. Many people contributed to making this event so enjoyable, and I am grateful for your sterling efforts.

'Thank You' also to all who made yesterday's Christmas Party go so well. A terrific afternoon's fun for the children!

Advent Penitential Service: Tuesday 15 December, 7.00 pm. We will have a Penitential Service here at St Columba's, with plenty of opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Apart from myself, Fr Maximilian Nwosu and Fr James Anyaegbu from Beaulieu will be hearing Confessions throughout the service. There will also be time for personal prayer and devotions in front of the Blessed Sacrament. What better way can there be to prepare spiritually for the birth of Our Saviour? *“Coming out of the confessional, we will feel God's strength, which restores life and returns the enthusiasm of faith”* (Pope Francis).

Parish Pilgrimage to Iona, 10-14 October 2016

Pope Francis has encouraged all Catholics to make a pilgrimage of faith during this Year of Mercy. With this in mind, I have booked half-board accommodation in the Catholic House of Prayer on the island of Iona for a Parish pilgrimage, arriving on Monday 10 October, and departing on Friday 14 October. There is a little chapel where we can celebrate daily Mass. The House can accommodate EIGHT pilgrims, in the following room configurations:

- 2 Single Rooms
- 2 Twin Rooms
- 1 Double Room

The total price per person will be approx £300. A deposit of £40 per person is required by mid-January. Transport will be in shared cars. Please see me if you are interested.

Classes for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion – In January 2016, we will be starting classes for children in P3 and above. Can parents please check that their child has been registered or collect a form from the sacristy. We will be holding a brief meeting for families on **Thursday 7th January at 6.30pm** to introduce the programme and to decide on class day/tim

Christmas Hamper Raffle Tickets are selling well: £1 for a strip of five tickets. Put your name/phone number on every ticket. **GOOD LUCK!** Drawn after Christmas Morning Mass.

Church cleaning: team meets together tomorrow, 14th December, at 4.30pm. Thank you, Ladies, for all the hard work you have put in over the past months: it is much appreciated by all of us.

“90 Club”: next draw Sunday 27th after morning Mass. You could be a winner if you get one of the few numbers left; please ask Don.

Prize Bingo last week raised £326 for the Building Fund: wonderful! Thanks to those who came and played; a very big ‘thank you’ to all who give items for prizes. Date of our next eyes down in January will depend on the weather conditions.

FINANCES

No. 1 Account	£ 367.58
Building Fund	£ 386.85
(of which, Prize Bingo	£ 326.55)

– Thank you for your generosity and support –

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Audrey O'Connell + Anna Black + Leslie Murray + Michelle Campbell + Laura Johnston + Amelia Drew

Anniversaries: Margaret Donnelly + Michael Giubarelli + Shirley-Anne MacKenzie.

GROUPS AND DEVOTIONS

The Secular Franciscan Order meets at 2.00pm on the Second Saturday of each month at St Columba's, Culloden. Contact Helen MacGilp (01463 792149). **Visit www.ofsgb.org.uk**.

Prayer and Praise Group every Thursday in the Lady Chapel at St Columba's, after the 7.30pm Mass. Call Brian (01463 790255) for details.

Inverness Catenian Circle meet on the Second Monday of every month, at 7.30pm. The meeting is followed by dinner at the Craigmonie Hotel, Annfield Road, Inverness. Contact Donald (07780 603045). **Visit www.catenians.co.uk**.