



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**1 DECEMBER 2019:
 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
 YEAR A**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5
 Psalm: Ps 121 (122): 1-2, 4-5, 6-9
 2nd Reading: Romans 13: 11-14
 Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 1 December	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 3 December	St. Francis Xavier, Priest Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 4 December	St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	10.30 am 11.00 am
Thursday 5 December	Thursday of Week 1 in Advent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 6 December	St. Nicholas, Bishop Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon
Saturday 7 December	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation ** Rosary ** Mass	10.15 am 10.40 am 11.00 am
Sunday 8 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Second Collection: Building Fund	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

First Sunday of Advent: In A Dark Hour

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. He occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26).

His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him—spiritually and morally—when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah. In today's Second Reading, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night. Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord—that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-7). It is time we start living like it—throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace.

The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.

As we sing in today's Psalm, let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord. Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Scott Hahn)

GENERAL NEWS

1-8 JULY 2020: DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM AND THE SAINTLY SHRINES OF NORTH-EAST ENGLAND – Led by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB. **Price: £699 pp sharing; £848 pp single room occupancy** (price subject to alteration depending on numbers). Travel by luxury coach from Aberdeen, with two nights in Durham, and a visit to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. Three nights in Walsingham, including a visit to Norwich, and to the church of St. Julian. Two nights in York, visiting Whitby and Rievaulx Abbey. Limited places available; book early to avoid disappointment! **For further information, contact Alba Tours, on 01698 262941.**

PARISH NEWS

TODAY!! – ‘Bacon Butty Morning’ for Mary’s Meals: delicious bacon rolls will be available after Mass. All monies will go towards the charity Mary’s Meals. Go on.. you know you want to!!

Thursday 5 December: St. Columba’s Parish Council Meeting – the meeting will take place after the evening Mass. Please let Fr. Domenico know if you can attend; any items for the Agenda to be sent to him.

“Joy to the World”: Marian Reflections for Advent – 4, 11, 14 December. A series of talks, discussions, and meditations on God’s plan for salvation, seen through the eyes of Mary of Nazareth. The programme is as follows:

Wed 4 December at 7.00pm: The Annunciation

Wed 11 December at 7.00pm: The Visitation

Sat 14 December, 12 noon-4.00pm: The Nativity

More details to follow. Please spread the word!

Christmas Flowers – we are blessed with the generosity and talents of parishioners, who always provide us with such beautiful flowers for Christmas. Would you consider helping us with a donation, which will go towards making our church even more beautiful, and fitting for celebrating the birth of Our Saviour?

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 plastic box at the front door of the church. Thank you!

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday 7 December, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Santa has been notified, and has promised us that he will come to visit St. Columba’s! Please note, Mums: Selection Boxes, wrapped up, please! There will be music,

games, surprises, and much more! All children very welcome!

ST. COLUMBA’S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Thursday 19 December, 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Back by popular demand – a date for your diaries! As per last year, we will be hosting a service of your favourite Christmas carols, with community singing, together with seasonal Scripture readings, with festive food and drink provided (non-alcoholic mulled wine, mince pies, and other goodies). We will have the children of St. Joseph’s RC School joining us, together with a special appearance by The Three (Highland) Priests! Donations at the door – suggested offerings are: £5 for adults; kids go free! All proceeds go towards our Building Fund. Why not invite some friends and come along?!! Spread a little festive cheer!

BABY AND TODDLERS’ GROUP: the group meets **tomorrow (Monday 2 December)**, in the Meeting Room at St. Columba’s, from 9.30am to 11.30am. We are always looking for new members to join in the fun!

CLEANING TEAM – Monday 2nd December at 1.30pm: Isobel and Margaret with Don. Would you like to help out too? Any help would be greatly appreciated!

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE – our Yuletide hamper is ready: only £1 for a strip of five tickets. Please write your name and phone number on the back of each ticket. There are FIVE great prizes to be won! GOOD LUCK!!

90 CLUB: NEXT DRAW SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER – Only £2 monthly. Good luck to all who have a number. There are still a few numbers available; why not try your luck, and help the parish? Ask Don for details.

CHRISTMAS BINGO FUNDRAISER – FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER: eyes down at 7pm. Come along and join in our festive Bingo. There are some wonderful items to be won. To help keep the event successful, please continue handing in items to give as prizes. Ideal items include: gift vouchers, toiletries, chocolates, wine, and other unusual things. Thank you for your generous support.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Angus Johnson + Michael Good + Laura Johnstone + Fr. George Hutcheon + Norman Wood + John Macdonald + Alec Mackintosh + Katie Mary Fraser + Fr. Richard Reese +

R.I.P: + Margaret Marshall +

Anniversaries: + Angela Deans + Rita Harkins + Alice Keeler + Lorna MacDonald + Cath MacLeod + Anna Kitty Mathew +