



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

20 DECEMBER 2020:
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Year B (I); Psalter: Week 4)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
 Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 88 (89): 2-5, 27, 29
 2nd Reading: Romans 16: 25-27
 Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 20 December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (p. 57 – Year B) Retiring Collection: Building Fund	LIVE-STREAMED MASS MASS	9.30 am 11.00 am
Monday 21 December	Commemoration of St. Peter Canisius Priest, Doctor Mass Intention: Eve Harris	Live-Streamed Public Mass Sacrament of Confession Sacrament of Confession Virtual Christmas Carol Concert	9.30 am 10.15am – 11.00 am 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm 7.00 pm
Tuesday 22 December	Of the Day Mass Intention: Alison Francis	Live-Streamed Public Mass Sacrament of Confession Sacrament of Confession	9.30 am 10.15am – 11.00 am 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Wednesday 23 December	Commemoration of St. John of Kenty, Priest Mass Intention: Anne Davidson, RIP (Anniversary Today)	Live-Streamed Public Mass Sacrament of Confession Sacrament of Confession	9.30 am 10.15am – 11.00 am 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Thursday 24 December	Of the Day Mass Intention: Rose Russell, RIP (Funeral Service Today) CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS	Live-Streamed Public Mass Sacrament of Confession Sacrament of Confession LIVE-STREAMED MASS	9.30 am 10.15am – 11.00 am 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 25 December	CHRISTMAS DAY	LIVE-STREAMED MASS MASS	10.30 am 12.00 noon
Saturday 26 December	St. Stephen, The First Martyr Mass Intention: Michelle Campbell, RIP (Anniversary Today)	Live-Streamed Public Mass	9.30 am
Sunday 27 December	THE HOLY FAMILY (p. 101 – Year B) Retiring Collection: Building Fund	LIVE-STREAMED MASS MASS	9.30 am 11.00 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Mystery Kept Secret

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Second Reading, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:9; 3:3–9). Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see Isaiah 7:13–14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible. Mary is hailed as the “daughter Jerusalem,” called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty Saviour (see Zephaniah 3:14–17). The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of “the Most High”—an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18–19).

He will fulfil the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God “my Father.” As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end. He is to rule over the house of Jacob—the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see Exodus 19:3), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see Isaiah 2:1–5). Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience—that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word. (Scott Hahn)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy (CTS New Sunday Missal): Fourth Sunday of Advent, Yr. B (p. 57)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 57: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 543: Apostles' Creed
p. 551: Preface II of Advent
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:

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2020:

VIGIL MASS: Thursday 24 December at 7.30pm:
* THIS MASS IS NOW **FULLY BOOKED** *

CHRISTMAS DAY Masses (Friday 25 Dec.):
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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION – from the end of March onwards, and throughout lockdown, Fr. Domenico has been available for the Sacrament of Confession every day. During this Christmas week, there will be opportunities to receive the Sacrament both in the morning (10.15-11.00am) and also in the evening (5.00-6.00pm). Simply come to the back door of the meeting room during these times, or contact Fr. Domenico in advance, if you wish.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RESOURCES:
this week, the children are invited to reflect on Angels: the three named angels in the Bible (do YOU know their names?!) and the angel who appears to the shepherd, with the heavenly host at the crib. There is also a word puzzle for the children, and angelic figures to colour in, and hang on their Christmas trees. Many thanks as ever, Ewen, for your energy and efforts with 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 help us and get involved with this project, please contact Jill Kent at: welcometohighland@gmail.com

TOMORROW: VIRTUAL 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 **tomorrow, 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: + Eileen Russell + Peter O'Neill +

Anniversaries: + George Innes + Michelle Campbell

Fr. Domenico would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families every joy and blessing in this Holy Season. May the wonder and grace of the Christ Child fill your hearts with love and peace!