



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**22 DECEMBER 2019:**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A**  
**(Psalter: Week 4)**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14  
 Psalm: Ps 23 (24): 1-6  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 1: 1-7  
 Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

Date	Details	Service	Time
<b>Sunday 22 December</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (p. 40)</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>
Tuesday 24 December	<b>SHORT SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS</b> <b>CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS (p. 84)</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Readings and Carols</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>10.30 pm</b> <b>11.00 pm</b> <b>11.30 pm</b>
Wednesday 25 December	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY MASS (p. 92)</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>10.00 am</b> <b>10.30 am</b>
Thursday 26 December	ST. STEPHEN Mass Intention: Michelle Campbell, RIP (Anniversary)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 27 December	JOHN THE EVANGELIST Mass Intention: Jenner Martin (Health and Intentions)	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	10.00 am 11.00 am 11.30 am 12 noon
Saturday 28 December	THE HOLY INNOCENTS Mass Intention: Margôt Boyd (Health and Intentions)	Sacrament of Reconciliation ** Rosary ** Mass	9.45 am 10.40 am 11.00 am
<b>Sunday 29 December</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY (p. 97)</b> <b>Second Collection: Building Fund</b>	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> <b>Mass</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> <b>9.30 am</b>

## “I bring you news of great joy!” – The Parish Year in Review

The words of the angel Gabriel to the shepherds in the fields are also words that are relevant to us all in St. Columba's! This has been another busy year in the life of the parish. We began with a truly happy event, namely, your Parish Priest (finally) taking up residence in his own house, on Hogmanay evening! This was a long-awaited moment indeed!

The month of January had barely begun, and we had the presentation of Papal Honours to Helen MacGilp and Ewen Macdonald, who each received a Benemerenti medal from Pope Francis, for their years of hard work and commitment to the parish. Not only did they grace the pages of the 'Light of the North' magazine, but their photograph appeared in the Inverness Courier (fame at last!).

Our Lenten programme of reflections on the 'Seven Last Words of Christ' was extremely well attended, and much appreciated, and the momentum continued with a deeply meaningful Holy Week; the Triduum in particular (Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil/Sunday) was spiritually uplifting. It was wonderful to see the church so packed with people on Easter Sunday! Pentecost brought its own graces and power of the Holy Spirit, beautifully captured in Linda's 'tongues of flame' floral centrepiece in front of the altar.

In the Summer, we were able to celebrate two great Sacraments of the Church: the First Holy Communion of our 'sensational six' candidates: Ruby, Caitlin, Calum, Annrose, Emily, and Katie; and the Priestly Ordination of Dominic Nwaigwe, in St. Mary's Inverness. This was a glorious occasion, and it was sealed with a marvellous reception in the British Legion, to the strains of the bagpipes, competing with the drums and singing of the Nigerian guests, whose dancing and exuberance were infectious!

At the beginning of September, 18 intrepid parishioners embarked on a 5-day pilgrimage to Barcelona and Catalonia. The pilgrimage was a huge success, as well as being a deeply spiritual and moving experience. Next year, some 34 folk are heading to Oberammergau, and the famous Passion Play, performed every 10 years.

On 20 September, we were lucky enough to have international speaker and evangelist David Wells come and talk to us on the theme of 'Called and Sent: Living out our Catholic Faith'. It was an invigorating and inspiring talk, to put it mildly!

By November, all of the snagging and final work on the house was completed. In addition to paying for all of the work involved in the construction of the new house, we also managed to reduce our parish debt, by paying back over £26,000 to the diocese. Our present debt stands at exactly £235,000; another £35,000 will be paid in the next financial year, to take the debt down to £200K. Now that the house project is completed, a repayment plan has been agreed with the diocese, to the value of £10,000 a year from the Building Fund, over a 20-year period. This is very feasible. In the New Year, I will ask you to consider your current levels of giving, and I will offer suggestions on how we can maximise our donations, so as to help the parish even further.

We completed a short series of talks on Marian reflections in Advent, and we also had a 'parish cinema night out' to see the new docudrama on the life of St. Faustina. It is wonderful that there are such wholesome Catholic films being screened in mainstream cinemas!

As you can see from this review, 2019 has been a time of growth for the parish in every sense. Attendance numbers have increased, and it is so gratifying to see new people getting involved in the life of St. Columba's. I often have folk come up to me and remark on the great atmosphere of welcome, and of worship, in this church. This is due to yourselves. I am extremely grateful for all of the support that you give me throughout the year; I simply couldn't do it without you! I know that it is not always easy for you, having to share me with Aberdeen, and my other duties in the Diocese. Thank you for your patience and prayers! There is so much potential in this parish! Let's continue on this right path to continue to build up our community, for the greater glory of God. Remember the words of St. Paul: "The love of Christ urges us on!"

With prayers and blessings for you and your families, Fr. Domenico.

## PARISH NEWS

**Today's Liturgy (CTS Sunday Missal) – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A (p. 40):**

p. 521: Introductory Rites

p. 40: Readings and Proper Prayers

p. 541: Creed

p. 551: Preface II of Advent

p. 611: Eucharistic Prayer III

p. 631: Communion Rite

**Mass Times During the New Year Period –**

Tues 31 Dec at 7.30pm: Pope St. Sylvester

**Wed 1 Jan at 10.30am: Mary, Mother of God (p. 109)**

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to make Thursday evening's Christmas Carol Service such a success! What a wonderful preparation for this holy week!

**Thank you** also to everyone who handed in cards and gifts to Fr. Domenico. May the Good Lord bless you for your kindness and generosity!

**Admirabile Signum: Pope Francis' new Apostolic Letter** on the meaning and importance of the Nativity Scene, **can be purchased in the entrance foyer for £3.50.** In this letter, Pope Francis transforms what is often an overlooked part of the season into the very focal point of our devotion at Christmas.

**CONFIRMATIONS 2020:** We have now completed the first block of classes for Confirmation 2020. The dates for the next block are as follows: **9, 16 and 23 January.** As before, these are on Thursdays, and we will meet at 6.30pm for 30 minutes. If you have any difficulty with the dates 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!

**BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP:** the group is meeting **tomorrow (Monday 23 December)**, at St. Columba's Meeting Room, 9.30am-11.30am. We are always looking for new members to join in the fun!

**CLEANING TEAM –** To be arranged, by asking for help nearer the time! Would you like to help out too?!

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE –** tickets on sale now! Raffle drawn after Mass on Christmas Day. Prizes and raffle books are on the table in the entrance foyer; 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:** Draw next Sunday, 29 December, after morning Mass. Good luck to all our ticket holders!

**FUNDRAISER BINGO –** The Bingo returns on **Friday 31 January 2020, at 7.00pm.** Your generosity with the items we give as prizes has made this fundraiser so successful and popular!

## 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 + John Smith + Stuart MacLennan +

**Anniversaries:** + George Innes + Tommy Cameron + Anne Davidson + Michelle Campbell +