



St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW

Tel: (01463) 794619 / (01463) 233519

E-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com

Website: www.stcolumbasculloden.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden

Parish Priest: Fr Domenico Zanrè



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**2 DECEMBER 2018:
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: Ps 24 (25):4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 2 December	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (NO Second Collection)	Sacrament of Confession Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 4 December	Tuesday of Week 1 in Advent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 5 December	Wednesday of Week 1 in Advent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 6 December	Thursday of Week 1 in Advent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 9 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (NO Second Collection)	Sacrament of Confession Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

First Sunday of Advent: The Coming of the Lord

Today the Church begins a new Liturgical Year. The first Season on this itinerary is Advent, formed — in the Roman Rite — of the four weeks preceding the Nativity of Our Lord, that is, the mystery of the Incarnation.

The word “advent” means “coming” or “presence”. In the ancient world it meant the visit of the king or emperor to a province; in the Christian language it refers to the Coming of God, to his presence in the world; a mystery that embraces the entire cosmos and history, but that has two culminating events: the First and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The first is, precisely, the Incarnation. The second is his glorious return at the end of time. These two events that are chronologically distant — and we are not given to know by how long — are deeply connected, because with his death and Resurrection Jesus fulfilled that transformation of man and of the cosmos, which is the final goal of Creation. However, before the end, the Gospel must be proclaimed to all the nations, as Jesus says in the Gospel according to St Mark (cf. Mk 13:10). The Lord's Coming continues, the world must be penetrated by his presence and this ongoing Coming of the Lord in the proclamation of the Gospel requires our continuous collaboration. Moreover the Church, who is, as it were, the Betrothed, the promised Bride of the Lamb of the Crucified and Risen God (cf. Rev 21:9), in communion with her Lord, collaborates in this Coming of the Lord, in which his glorious return has already begun. Today the word of God calls us to this, outlining the lines of conduct we should follow to be ready for the Lord's

Coming. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus says to the disciples: “take heed... lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life... at all times, praying” (Lk 21:34, 36). Therefore, moderation and prayer. And the Apostle Paul adds the invitation to “increase and abound in love” among ourselves and for everyone, to make our hearts blameless in holiness (cf. 1 Thess 3:12-13).

In the midst of the upheavals of the world or in the deserts of indifference and materialism, may Christians accept salvation from God and bear witness to it with a different way of life, like a city set upon a hill. “In those days”, the Prophet Jeremiah announced, “Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: The Lord is our righteousness” (33:16). The community of believers is a sign of God's love, of his justice which is *already* present and active in history but is *not yet completely fulfilled* and must therefore always be awaited, invoked and sought with patience and courage.

The Virgin Mary perfectly embodies the spirit of Advent that consists in listening to God, with a profound desire to do his will and to serve our neighbour joyfully. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her, so that God who comes may not find us closed or distracted but rather may extend a little of his kingdom of love, justice and peace in each of us. (Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 2 December 2012)

GENERAL NEWS

Saturday 8 December: Deanery Day of Healing and Devotion at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Stratherrick. The programme for this Deanery Day on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is as follows:

- 10.00 Gather and Register (House: Tea/Coffee)
- 10.30 Introduction: Prayer and Praise (Fr. J. Bell)
- 10.40 Talk: Mary the Untier of Knots (Fr. J. Bell)
- 11.00 Exposition/Guided Meditation (Fr. A. Niski)
- 11.30 Confession and Conferences (all the Priests)
- 12.00 Angelus (Daughters of Divine Love)
- 12.15 Mass: Laying on of Hands and Anointing with the Balm of Mercy
Celebrant: Fr. A. Harden SJ;
Homilist: Deacon Dominic Nwaigwe
- 13.00 Faith Sharing Group
- 13.20 Relaxation
- 13.30 Lunch
- 14.45 Faith Sharing OR Rosary Walk
- 15.30 Exposition, Vespers, Benediction (Fr. D. Zanre)
- 16.00 Tea and Depart

Friday 14 December: Inter-denominational Christmas Carol Service at 7.00pm, at St. Mary's RC Church, Beaulieu. All welcome!

Saturday 15 December: "Jesus the True Messiah" – at St. Mary's Church, Beaulieu, from 10.00am-3.30pm. An Advent Reflection in the light of *Cur Deus Homo* of St. Anselm, led by Fr. Kingsley Chibgo, CCE.

The programme for the day is as follows:

- 10:00am – Tea/coffee & introductions
- 10:30am – Mass
- 11:25am-12:15pm Conference Talk & Discussion
- 12:30pm-1:10pm Exposition, Penitential Service, & Confessions
- 1:15pm Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament
- 1:30pm – Lunch and dismissal

Would you like to become a Safeguarding Trainer? – the next training session will take place in Perth on the following dates:

Saturday 19 January 2019, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Saturday 26 January 2019, 10.00am-4.00pm.

For further information, please speak to Helen Macdonald.

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT – the St. Columba's Christmas Carol Concert will take place on **Wednesday 5 December, from 7.00pm-8.00pm**. We are looking for volunteers to help us 'on the day':

- Clearing chairs and setting up tables after evening Mass on Tuesday 4 December;
- serving teas/coffees and edible goodies;
- tidying up afterwards;
- clearing away tables and rearranging chairs;
- welcoming our guests.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the entrance foyer, and do consider helping us to make this a wonderful evening for all the family.

ST. COLUMBA'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday 8 December, 2.00pm-4.00pm.

Once again, we are looking for 'Santa's Helpers' to assist us with this afternoon of fun for the children. Can you volunteer? See the relevant sign-up sheet in the foyer. Thank you!

BABY AND TODDLERS' GROUP – The group meets at St. Columba's every Monday, from 9.30am to 11.30am. Why not come along and join in the fun?!

Cleaning Team: Monday 3 December at 12 noon: Margaret and Don. Can you help us? Helping just one hour a month would lighten the load of others who do assist to keep the church nice and clean. See Don for details.

Next 90 Club Draw: Sunday 30 December – It's never too late to take part and join in! Only £2 a month! Please speak to Don.

PRIZE BINGO: FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER – 'EYES DOWN' AT 7.00PM! – Why not join us for our special 'Christmas' Bingo evening?! A sincere 'thank you' for all of the items that have been handed in; these are very important to us, and are much appreciated. Your support is instrumental in making the Bingo such a success for the parish!
Next Bingo night: 25 January 2019.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Morag MacIntyre + Angus Johnson + Johnny Gallagher + Denise Maclean + Ellen Williams + Eva Zanre + Vinnie Walton + Laura Johnstone +

R.I.P: + Dennis Wood +

Anniversaries: + Rita Harkins + Martin Regan + Alice Keeler + Lorna MacDonald + Cath MacLeod + Angela Deans + Anna Kitty Mathews +