



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 ~

4TH DECEMBER 2016
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR A

Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalm: Ps 71 (72): 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

2nd Reading: Romans 15: 4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 4 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00am 9.30am
Tuesday 6 December	Tuesday in the Second Week of Advent	** Evening Prayer ** Mass	7.00pm 7.30pm
Wednesday 7 December	Memorial of St Ambrose	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am 11.30am
Thursday 8 December	SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY	Mass	7.30pm
Sunday 11 December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00am 9.30am

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes before EVERY Mass during Advent and Christmas.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) – KINGDOM COME

“The kingdom of heaven is at hand,” John proclaims, and the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today’s Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today’s First Reading and Psalm. He is the king’s son, the son of David — a shoot from the root of Jesse, David’s father (see Ruth 4:17).

He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit — wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel — but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage.

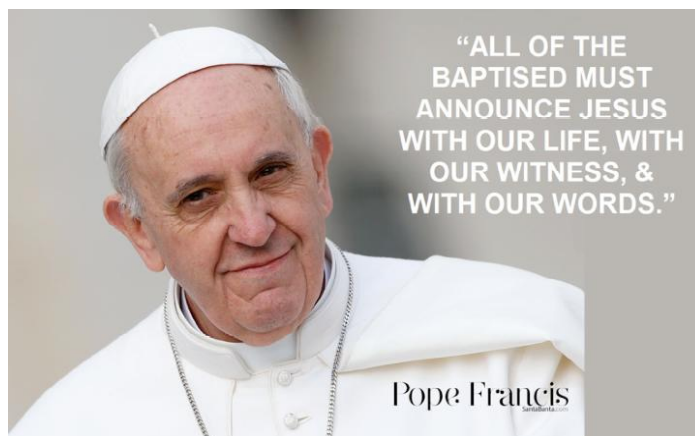
In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God’s oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel’s patriarchs, Paul tells us in today’s Epistle. But no longer are God’s promises reserved solely for the

children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in “the covenants of promise” (see Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God’s chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1-2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5) — children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings — making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church. (Scott Hahn)



GENERAL NEWS

TODAY (Sunday 4 Dec): Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) Stall: from 12 noon onwards, the HCPT will have a stall in the Eastgate Centre, selling Christmas cards, gifts, and assorted items, all in support of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust. Why not drop by and support them?

Quiet Day at Stratherrick for the Immaculate Conception, Thursday 8 December: 10.00am onwards. With two Reflections (Fr Domenico; Fr James Bell), Eucharistic Adoration; Rosary Walk; Chaplet of the Divine Mercy; and concluding with Holy Mass at 3.30pm (Celebrant: Fr Andrew Harden; Homilist: Fr Domenico). All welcome!

St Mary's, Beaulieu: Penitential Service – Saturday, 17 December, led by Fr Domenico. Here is the programme:
10.30 am – Welcome, and Advent Penitential Reflection;
11.00 am – Opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession; worship music played by Marie-Claire, Sarah and Mark;
12.30 pm – Holy Mass/homily by Fr Domenico;
1.00 pm – light lunch. Come and prepare yourself spiritually for the birth of Our Saviour this Christmas! All welcome!

PARISH NEWS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available at St Columba's before EVERY Mass in this Advent Season, in the Lady Chapel. Just come along and see Fr Domenico, or ask at any time. Remember the words of Pope Francis: "Even if the Holy Door closes, the true door of mercy, which is the heart of Christ, always remains open wide for us". Deo gratias!

NEW: Evening Prayer: 7.00pm every Tuesday. Why not join us as we pray together the Universal Prayer of the Church? An ideal preparation for Mass, and for Christmas!

Snow/ice clearing: our list of volunteers needs updating. Can you help? Please sign up in the foyer.

Drama Group for Children (approx. 5-10 years old): This initiative has been suggested to me by one of our parishioners. If you would like to help with a simple drama group for our younger children, with the aim of putting together a small production at Christmas and Easter-time, please speak to Fr Domenico.

Have you seen our new Facebook page?! Feel free to contribute news items (local, national, and international), share information on what is happening in the Church and the world, make comments and suggestions, etc. You can find the site here: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden

Faith in Film Evening: *The Nativity Story* (2006), Wednesday 21 December, at 7.00pm. Critics have described this adaptation as "beautifully directed and portrayed" – "a truly wonderful film that conveys great spiritual power, even as it brings home the humanity of Mary and Joseph to a degree few of its predecessors ever even attempted. Keisha Castle-Hughes is wonderful as young Mary, but [...] Oscar Isaac is more than up to the task of bringing this humble carpenter to vivid life" (**Certificate: PG – 97 minutes**).

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday 10 December, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Santa has been notified, and has promised us that he will come to visit St Columba's on Saturday 10 December! There will be music, games, surprises, and much more! All children very welcome!

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Wed 14 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 (that means you!) together with seasonal Scripture readings, here at St Columba's, with festive food and drink provided (mulled wine, mince pies, and other goodies). We have also invited a few special guests to join us!! Donations at the door – all proceeds go towards our Building Fund. Why not invite some friends? Spread a little festive cheer!

HOME ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS? If you're spending Christmas by yourself this year, why not join some of our other parishioners for a Christmas meal together? If you would like to do this, please speak to Fr Domenico, or to Magda Maclean.

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Take a few books home for friends and neighbours! **Only £1 a ticket** – available in the entrance foyer.

ST COLUMBA'S HOGMANAY DANCE, from 9.00pm until 12.30am. Come along to St Columba's on Hogmanay and bring in the New Year with us in style! Tickets are priced **just £5.00, in aid of the Church Building Fund.** Music is provided by John Gordon, and there will be stovies & oatcakes and other delights all night long! Please feel free to bring your own refreshments! Tickets are now on sale – why not treat yourself and your family this Hogmanay?!!

Church cleaning – Tues morning, 6th Dec: Mary & Marie.

CHRISTMAS CLEAN: Monday 12th December at 6.30pm. All hands on deck! – All teams to come together to clean the church, and make it ready for Christmas. "Thank you" for your help throughout the year!

"90 Club" Winners for November: First Prize – no. 20 (Friends of the LSU); Second Prize – no. 46 (Catriona); Third Prize – no. 70 (Marie from Nairn). **NEXT DRAW:** 18 December. Good luck to all who have a number. We still have a few available; please ask Don about joining in – **ONLY £2 MONTHLY!**

PRIZE BINGO – our next 'eyes down' will be on the last Friday of January, and thereafter every last Friday until June. Your help in donating items to give as prizes is always greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Audrey O'Connell + Amelia Drew + Leslie Murray + Cath and Roddy Mackenzie + Jane Green + Frances Boyle +

Anniversaries: + Anna Kitty Mathew + Cathy Douglas + Margaret Donnelly + Michael Giubarelli +