



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

5 DECEMBER 2021:
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Year C (II); Psalter: Week 2)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
Resp. Psalm: Ps. 125 (126)
2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 5 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (p. 65 – Year C)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass Holy Mass	9.30 am 11.00 am
Monday 6 December	St. Nicholas, Bishop	NO LITURGIES	---
Tuesday 7 December	St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 8 December	SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Thursday 9 December	Thursday of Week 2 in Advent	Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Friday 10 December	Friday of Week 2 in Advent	Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Saturday 11 December	Saturday of Week 2 in Advent	Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 12 December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ GAUDETE / BAMBINELLI SUNDAY ~ (p. 69 – Year C)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass Holy Mass	9.30 am 11.00 am

Second Sunday of Advent: The Road Home

Today's Psalm paints a dreamlike scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing. It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic. Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Second Reading puts it, "the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration and conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see Baruch 5:5). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin if we turn to Him in repentance.

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare Jeremiah 1:1–4, 11). But John is greater than the prophets (see Luke 7:27). He's preparing the way not only for a new redemption of Israel but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also Acts 28:28).

John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God." (Scott Hahn)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy (CTS New Sunday Missal): Second Sunday of Advent (p. 65)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 65: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 541: The Creed

p. 549: Preface I of Advent
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

NEXT WEEK: 'BAMBINELLI SUNDAY'! – Each year on *Gaudete* Sunday, children in Rome bring their baby Jesus figures to St. Peter's Square where the Pope blesses both them and the figurines during the Angelus. Families at St. Columba's are encouraged to participate spiritually in this tradition by bringing their 'bambinelli', or baby Jesus figures, to be blessed at next week's Sunday Mass. Simply place them on the bench in front of the altar before the start of Mass. Remember which is yours!

Christmas Flowers: if you would like to assist us with purchasing flowers for our Christmas celebrations, please consider placing a contribution in an envelope, marked 'Christmas Flowers', and leaving it in the Sacristy. Thank you.

Candles and Tea-Lights we are now permitted to use candles and tea-lights for personal devotions. Just remember to be careful, especially if you have sanitised your hands, making sure that excess gel has been removed.

Icon of St. Joseph: A sincere 'thank you' to those of you who have already donated to the cost of this work; if you would like to do so, please place any offerings in an envelope, address it as 'icon donation', and hand it in to the Sacristy. Thank you!

Christmas Items at our Piety Stall! we have many new items in stock: Advent calendars; Christmas cards; nativity scenes; children's books; rosaries, and much, much more! Why not browse our stall?

Children's Advent & Christmas Resources: we have copies of a newly published book on the Rosary for Children; meanwhile, Ewen is busy preparing his excellent Sunday liturgy packs: make sure to pick one up in the entrance foyer!

ADVENT STUDY COURSE – 'THE CHRISTMAS STORY': Fr. Domenico's Scripture course on 'The Christmas Story' continues this week. It will be streamed via Zoom, on **Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm** during December.

Wednesday 8 December	Annunciation(s)
Wednesday 15 December	Realisation
Wednesday 22 December	Adoration

Restoration of the 'Sunday Obligation': please see the recent letter from the Bishops' Conference of Scotland (www.bcos.org.uk). The Obligation to attend Mass will be restored on **Sunday 2 January (the Solemnity of the Epiphany)**.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Fr. Domenico is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at **any mutually convenient time; simply get in touch with him**. The Sacrament is also available in the Meeting Room on the following days.

Tuesday 14 December: 5.30pm-6.30pm
Tuesday 21 December: 5.30pm-6.30pm

Thursday 16 December: 5.30pm-6.30pm
Thursday 23 December: 5.30pm-6.30pm

Christmas Masses:

Vigil (24 December)	7.00pm: carols and readings	7.30pm: Holy Mass
Christmas Day	10.30am: Holy Mass	12.00 Noon: Holy Mass

90 Club: November Draw Winners! – First Prize: Donnie MacMillan; Second Prize: Anna Black; Third Prize: Dorothy Macdonald. The final draw of the year takes place on 26 December. Please note that there are envelopes on the foyer table, in which to place your 2022 contributions to the 90 Club. Simply fill in the details, and return the envelope to Fr. Domenico. Thank you.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Katie Mary Fraser, Norman Wood, Ian Macdonald, Kathleen Macpherson, Marian Ellis, Chris Hamilton, Rina Herbison, David Munro, Ellen Williams, Rose Corbett.

Anniversaries: Archie Thomson, Margaret Donnelly, Michael Giubarelli, Desmond Harrington.