

St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

5 JANUARY 2020: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Year A (II); Psalter: as indicated)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalm: Ps 71 (72): 1-2, 7-8, 10-13 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-2

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 5 January 2020	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (p. 123)	Sacrament of Reconciliation	9.00 am
	Second Collection: Building Fund	Mass	9.30 am
Tuesday 7 January	Optional Memorial of St. Raymond of Penyafort	Sacrament of Reconciliation	6.30 pm
Tuesday / January	Mass Intention: Anne Laverty, R.I.P.	Evening Prayer	7.00 pm
	(Anniversary Today)	Mass	7.30 pm
Wednesday 8 January	Optional Memorial of St. Nathalan (Diocesan Saint)	Sacrament of Reconciliation	10.30 am
	Mass Intention: Peter Horne (2 nd Anniversary) and	Mass	11.00 am
	Raymond Horne (Lately Deceased)	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.30 am
Thursday 9 January	Weekday of Christmas Time,	Sacrament of Reconciliation	7.00 pm
	Mass Intention: Ewen Macdonald, R.I.P.	Mass	7.30 pm
	(Second Anniversary and Birthday)		
Friday 10 January	Weekday of Christmas Time,	Sacrament of Reconciliation	10.30 am
	Mass Intention: John MacDonald, R.I.P	Mass	11.00 am
	(Deceased: 19 December 2019)	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.30 am
		& Benediction	12 noon
Saturday 11 January	Weekday of Christmas Time,	Sacrament of Reconciliation	10.15 am
	Mass Intention: Lachlan MacNeil, R.I. P.	** Rosary **	10.40 am
	(Anniversary: 5 January)	Mass	11.00 am
Sunday 12 January	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (p. 128)	Sacrament of Reconciliation	9.00 am
	Second Collection: Justice and Peace	Mass	9.30 am
	~ END OF CHRISTMASTIDE ~		

The Epiphany of the Lord: A King to Behold

An "epiphany" is an appearance. In today's readings, with their rising stars, splendorous lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears.

Herod, in today's Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see 2 Samuel 2:5), the other predicting "a ruler of Israel" who will "shepherd his flock" and whose "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth" (see Micah 5:1–3).

Those promises of Israel's king ruling the nations resound also in today's Psalm. The psalm celebrates David's son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch "to the ends of the earth," and the world's kings will pay Him homage. That's the scene too in today's First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing "gold and frankincense" for Israel's king.

The Magi's pilgrimage in today's Gospel marks the fulfillment of God's promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler's staff over the house of Jacob (see Numbers 24:17).

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the "kings of the earth" (see 1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see Song of Songs 3:6, 4:6, 14).

One greater than Solomon is here (see Luke 11:31). He has come to reveal that all peoples are "co-heirs" of the royal family of Israel, as today's Second Reading teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: Will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and the scribes who let God's words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page? (Scott Hahn).

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy (CTS Sunday Missal) - The Epiphany of the Lord, Year A (p. 123):

p. 521: Introductory Rites

p. 123: Readings and Proper Prayers

p. 541: Creed

p. 555: Preface of the Epiphany of the Lord

p. 591: Eucharistic Prayer I

p. 631: Communion Rite

Down Memory Lane.. – On 7 January 1978, our very first Mass was celebrated by Canon Duncan Stone in Duncan Forbes School at 6pm on Saturday evening. A grand total of 9 people attended this Vigil Mass!! Look how we've grown!

'The Two Popes' – Those of who subscribe to the Netflix streaming service provider will be able to watch **'The Two Popes'**, a newly-released biographical drama, based on the relationship between Pope Benedict XVI (Anthony Hopkins) and Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, who later became Pope Francis (Jonathan Pryce). Inspired by true events. Certificate PG-13. 125 minutes.

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.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME THIS

WEEK – 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!

CLEANING TEAM – Monday 6th January at 12 noon: Esther and Don. Would you like to help out too?! See Don for details.

90 CLUB: DECEMBER DRAW – First Prize: Theresa Hamilton; Second Prize: Francis Hay; Third Prize Anne O'Neill. **Next Draw: Sunday 25th January.** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FEES ARE DUE AGAIN; THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE LAST YEAR. Don will have the book ready after Mass, each Sunday.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE - the winning ticket is Green 244; however, there was no name or phone number on the back of the ticket. Do you have it? If the prize is not claimed, then we will be forced to draw it again.

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! Thank you for your continuing support!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: + Anna Black + Angus Johnson + Michael Good + Laura Johnstone + Father George Hutcheon + Norman Wood + Alec Mackintosh + Katie Mary Fraser + Father Richard Reese + John Smith + Stuart MacLennan + John Daniel Peteranna

R.I.P: + John MacDonald + John McDonald + Raymond Horne +

Anniversaries: + Ewen Macdonald + Father Ronnie Walls + Christopher Kelman + Mary McGlade + Peter Horne + Lachlan MacNeil + Katie MacKinnon