



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**6 JANUARY 2019:
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71 (72): 1-2, 7-8, 10-13

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 6 January	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 8 January	Memorial of Saint Nathalan, Bishop	Sacrament of Reconciliation ** Evening Prayer ** Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 9 January	Wednesday after Epiphany Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 10 January	Thursday after Epiphany Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 13 January	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

How to Bless Your Home on the Feast of the Epiphany

You may have seen it: a mysterious series of letters and numbers, looking for all the world like an equation, inscribed in chalk over a doorway at your parish, or at the home of a friend.

If you don't know what the chalk is all about, don't be ashamed. You're certainly not alone.

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, *Theophany*, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honoured Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2019 — is simple: take chalk of any colour and write the following above the entrance of your home: **20 + C + M + B + 19**.

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "19" at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

The chalking of the doors is a centuries-old practice throughout the world. It is an easy tradition to adopt, and a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to

God from its very outset, asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work, or visit them there.

The timing for the chalking of the doors varies somewhat in practice. In some places, it is done on New Year's Day. More commonly, it is performed today — the traditional Feast of the Epiphany — the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Most often the chalking takes place after Epiphany Mass, and can be done at any church, home, or dwelling. Traditionally, the blessing is done by either a priest or the father of the family.

Practicing traditions like the chalking of the doors helps us to live our Faith more concretely and serve as an outward sign of our dedication to Our Lord. Our homes are also the place where many of us will make the greatest strides in our spiritual growth, through observance of daily prayer, spiritual reading, and work offered as an oblation to God.

The chalking of the doors of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of welcoming the Magi gave to Jesus. We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

PARISH NEWS

‘Thank you!’ to Linda for the beautiful floral display in the church over the Christmas period. Parishioners and visitors particularly admired the arrangement in front of the altar. Thank you for your support in making our church even more beautiful!

Parish Linens – can you help us? - we are in great need of assistance in washing the parish linen. This involves rinsing out and drying/ironing the purificators (for the chalice) and the lavabo towel (for the priest to dry his fingers), so it is hardly difficult or time-consuming. If you would like to assist us in this important liturgical task, please see Mary in the Sacristy. Many thanks.

House Blessings – if you would like to have your house blessed at the beginning of this new year, speak to Fr. Domenico, to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Weekday Masses – given that Fr. Domenico is now finally living ‘on site’ (!), he is willing to offer **Mass on Friday and Saturday mornings** as well. This will begin on **Friday 17 January, at 11.00am** (Week 1 in Ordinary Time). Please spread the word!

This year’s Crib Appeal: The Bethlehem Crèche - Since 1885, the Sisters of Charity, otherwise known as the Sisters of Saint Vincent de Paul, settled in different locations in the Holy Land to tend to the destitute, in homes and under tents. The Crèche of Bethlehem was created some years later with the mission of tending to abandoned children. Today, three Religious Sisters, together with various volunteers, care for approximately 100 poor and orphaned children, of which 40 are live-in, and 70 are in day-care. During our recent Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we visited the Crèche, and were moved by the marvellous work of the Sisters, who offer these children a future. Please do give generously to this wonderful charity, by contributing to our crib, or handing in donations to the Sacristy, in an envelope clearly marked ‘Bethlehem Crèche’. Thank you.

Preparation for First Holy Communion in 2018: if your child is of approximately P3 age at Primary School, and you would like to discuss the possibility of him/her being prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and of Holy Communion in Summer 2018, please see Fr. Domenico.

Highland Foodbank – December and January: Your donations help to provide emergency food and support to local people in crisis. During these winter months, we would be grateful for the following items: * Jars of Coffee * Packets of Oatcakes * Tins of Corned Beef * Cartons of Long Life Fruit Juice * Tins of Ham. Please leave them in the plastic box at

the front door of the church. During the recent Highland Foodbank Harvest Appeal, St. Columba’s Culloden donated 71kgs of food. Thank you for your generosity!

BABY AND TODDLERS’ GROUP – The group will resume its weekly meetings on **Monday 14 January**, from 9.30am to 11.30am. Why not come along and join in the fun?!

Cleaning Team: Monday 7th January at 4.00pm: Shona, JiJi, and Don. Would you like to help us in 2019? 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.

Car Park: Now that we are beginning to experience a drop in temperature, and with the onset of winter, this is a gentle reminder to those who have offered to keep the car park area safe for driving and walking before Mass begins on Sunday mornings. New helpers are always welcome to assist!

Christmas Hamper Raffle: the winner was Dot from St Ninian's; Grace won the whisky; Helen won the wine; Heather won the crackers and sweets, and ‘blue 327’ still remains unclaimed!

December "90" CLUB Draw – The Winners: 1st prize = Shona Peteranna; 2nd prize = Chris Hamilton; 3rd prize = Amanda MacNeil. There are still some numbers available. Only £2 a month! Please speak to Don.

Next 90 Club Draw – Sunday 30 December: Are you paid up to date? There are still some numbers available. Only £2 a month! Please speak to Don.

PRIZE BINGO: FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 2019 (thereafter the last Friday of the month until June) – ‘EYES DOWN’ AT 7.00PM! – Why not join us for our fun-filled 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!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

Anniversaries: + Ewen Macdonald + Anne Lafferty + Father Gerald Fitzgibbon + Father Ronnie Walls + Allan Follet + Donald Barry + Mary McGlade + Joseph and Sarah Wheelan + Christopher Kelman +