



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**9 DECEMBER 2018:
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Psalm: Ps 125 (126)

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Date	Details	Service	Time
Sunday 9 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (NO Second Collection)	Sacrament of Confession Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 11 December	Tuesday of Week 2 in Advent Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Evening Prayer Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Wednesday 12 December	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30 am 11.00 am 11.30 am
Thursday 13 December	St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr Mass Intention: Donor's Intention	Sacrament of Confession Mass	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sunday 16 December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 'GAUDETE' / BAMBINELLI SUNDAY ~ (NO Second Collection)	Sacrament of Confession Mass	9.00 am 9.30 am

Second Sunday of Advent: The Road Home

Today's Psalm paints a dream-like 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, 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)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"Like St. John the Baptist, Christians have to humble themselves so that the Lord can grow in their hearts."

GENERAL NEWS

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

Parish House 'Wedding List': various parishioners have asked if they could contribute in any way to the new Parish House. Accordingly, Fr. Domenico has prepared a basic 'wedding list' of items that would be most useful – and gratefully appreciated! There is **absolutely no obligation to contribute** – it is entirely up to you! If you would like to do so, the 'wedding list' is in the Sacristy. Please mark down which item(s) you would like to contribute! Many thanks!

Next Week: 'Bambinelli Sunday' – Each year on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, children in Rome bring their Baby Jesus figures from the cribs in their homes to St. Peter's Square where the Pope blesses both them and the figurines during the Angelus. I would like to encourage our families here at St Columba's to participate spiritually in this tradition by bringing their 'Bambinelli' – if they have them – to be blessed at next week's Sunday Mass. *'This beautiful tradition helps to focus children's minds on the real reason for Christmas: the birth of our Lord Jesus.'*

Preparing for the Birth of Christ: if you have not already done so, why not sign up for Bishop Robert Barron's **FREE daily Advent Reflections**, delivered straight to your inbox? Simply include your e-mail address in the appropriate box on the following webpage: <https://adventreflections.com/>

"The Bible and the Virgin Mary": FREE video course to stream, in the comfort of your own home, throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons! – There's no one who can teach us to prepare for Christ's coming better than Mary, whose faithful anticipation of His birth is the perfect model for how

we should anticipate Christmas. To take advantage of this free online course, enter your e-mail address here: <https://stpaulcenter.com/streaming/>

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!

Flowers/Preparing the church: is there a budding (pun intended!) flower arranger in the congregation who would like to take on the task of looking after the flowers, or even just help with decorating the church for Christmas? Please speak to Fr. Domenico, or Mary Munro in the sacristy, if you would like to help with the flowers, or provide an arrangement or to contribute holly, etc. from your garden.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE – Tickets now on sale! Only £1 per strip (please write your name, address, contact number on the back of the tickets). The draw will be held on Christmas morning, after Mass.

Cleaning Team: Monday 10 December at 4.00 pm: Shona, Jilly, 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 25 JANUARY 2019 (thereafter the last Friday of the month until June) – '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!

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 +

Anniversaries: + Archie Thomson + Margaret Donnelly + Michael Giubarelli + Des Harrington + Marion Wynne +