



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

10 DECEMBER 2023:
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Year B (II); Psalter: Week 2)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5; 9-11
Resp. Psalm: 84 (85): 9-14
2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8-14
Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 10 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B (pp. 48 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 12 December	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 14 December	St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 16 December	Saturday of Week 2 in Advent	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 17 December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B (pp. 53 ff.) GAUDETE / BAMBINELLI SUNDAY	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am

Second Sunday of Advent: Straighten the Path

Our God is coming. The time of exile—the long separation of humankind from God due to sin—is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy. Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God—the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus toward the promised land (see Exodus 23:20). And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see Malachi 3:1-4). John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from Himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has done all this not for humanity in the abstract but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle. Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives so that everything we do leads us to Him. Today, let us hear the beginning of the Gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

conversion *is a grace*: no one can convert by his or own strength. It is a grace that the Lord gives you, and thus we need to forcefully ask God for it. To ask God to convert us, that we can truly convert, to the degree in which we open ourselves up to the beauty, the goodness, the tenderness of God. (Angelus Address, St. Peter's Square, Sunday 6 December 2020)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: Second Sunday of Advent, Year B (pp. 48 ff.)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 48: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 540: The Creed

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

Christmas Flowers – we are blessed with the generosity and talents of parishioners, who always provide us with such beautiful flowers for Christmas. Would you consider helping us with a donation, which will go towards making our church even more beautiful, and fitting for celebrating the birth of Our Saviour?

Bambinelli Sunday: Next Sunday, 17 December! – 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. Fr Domenico will bless all 'Bambinelli' at the Sunday Mass.

Sunday 17 December: Children's Christingle Service, 4.00pm, at St. Mary's Nairn – All children are welcome to take part; simply speak to Fr. Domenico. All children meet in the St. Mary's church hall at 2.30pm 'on the day', to prepare before the Service.

Advent Reflections: each Wednesday evening during Advent, from 6.00pm-7.30pm, the Priests have arranged reflections in different parishes. There will be Eucharistic Adoration, opportunities for Confession, Night Prayer, and Benediction:

Wednesday 13 December (St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr) – St. Mary's Beaulieu – Fr. Dominic Nwaigwe

Wednesday 20 December – St. Columba's Culloden – Fr. Andrzej Niski

Thursday 21 December, 7.00pm-8.00pm: St. Columba's Christmas Carol Concert! – we will be hosting a service of your favourite Christmas carols, with community singing, together with seasonal Scripture readings, with festive food and drink provided (including non-alcoholic mulled wine, *panettone*, and mince pies). We will have the children of St. Joseph's RC School joining us. Donations at the door; suggested offerings are: £5 for adults; kids go free! Why not invite some friends and come along?!!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday 24 December 9.30am: Fourth Sunday of Advent; 9.00pm: Carols; 9.30pm: Christmas Vigil Mass

Monday 25 December 9.30am: Mass of Christmas Day. **NB. BOTH Sunday AND Monday are Holy Days of Obligation**

Mary's Meals: 'Double the Love' Appeal – from now until 22 January, any donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous donors, up to £1 million. A donation of just £19.15 can feed a child every day for an entire school year. Because your gift will be matched by our benefactors, the same donation will feed a second child, too!

Christmas Hamper – buy a ticket (or two..!) and our lovely Christmas hamper could be yours! Tickets are on sale at the front door; only £1 a strip. Please include your name and contact details on the stub, so we can call you when you win (!)

90 Club: Next Draw on Sunday 31 December! The first draw of 2024 will take place on Sunday 28 January. There are a few numbers available, if anyone would like to try their luck: only £2 monthly, and you could win one of 3 prizes. Speak to Don.

November Winners! – First Prize: Sandy Grant; Second Prize: Francis Hay; Third Prize: Ellen Williams. Would you like to be a winner, too? See Don for details. Envelopes for your contributions towards next year's draws are available on the table at the front door; please take one home, fill in the details, and return when you are ready. Last Draw of the year: Sunday 31 December.

Prize Bingo will continue in 2024, on the last Friday of each month. Our box of prizes is almost empty; any donations will be gratefully received. We are looking for someone to take over the Bingo; can you help us? If so, speak to Don.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Kathleen Macpherson, Marian Ellis, Chris Hamilton, Rina Herbison, David Munro, Ellen Williams, Rose Corbett, Winnie Ferrari, Eileen Anne Millar, Mary & Esther Smith, Linda Macdonald, Pat Peteranna, Lauren Marsh, Katie MacCormick, Brian Hamilton, Dorothy Macdonald, Cathy Grant, John MacPhee
Anniversaries: Anna Kitty Mathews, Archie Thomson, Margaret Donnelly, Michael Giubarelli, Desmond Harrington, George Smith