



St. Columba's, Culloden

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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

11 DECEMBER 2022:
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
~ 'GAUDETE SUNDAY' ~
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 3)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah: 35: 1-6, 10
Resp. Psalm: Ps 145 (146): 6-10
2nd Reading: James 5: 7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 11 December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A (p. 36) (‘Gaudete’ Sunday)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am
Tuesday 13 November	St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr	NO MASS TODAY	---
Thursday 15 December	Thursday of Week 3 in Advent Mass Intention: Donald John Kennedy, RIP (Anniversary on 10 December)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 17 December	17 December Mass Intention: Mr. & Mrs. Peter Campbell (Health & Intentions)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 18 December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A (p. 40)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am

Third Sunday of Advent: Here is your God

John questions Jesus from prison in today’s Gospel—for his disciples’ sake and for ours. He knows that Jesus is doing “the works of the Messiah,” foretold in today’s First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvellous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2). The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today’s Second Reading, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Saviour.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: “Here is your God.” (Scott Hahn)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

“Advent is a time of grace. It tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing ourselves to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us, involves us and before whom a choice is imposed” (Angelus Address, St. Peter’s Square, 15 December 2019).

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy (CTS New Sunday Missal): Third Sunday of Advent, Year A (p. 36)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 36: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 541: The Creed

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

Advent Reflections: each Wednesday evening during Advent, the Priests of the Highland Deanery have arranged reflections in different parishes. Here are the dates, locations, and speakers:

Wednesday 14 December (St. John of the Cross) – St. Mary's Inverness – Fr. Domenico Zanrè

Wednesday 21 December (St. Peter Canisius) – St. Columba's Culloden – Fr. James Bell

Each evening will consist of the following programme:

6.15pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, & opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession

7.00pm Reflection, followed by Night Prayer, Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

November Lists Offerings – thanks to your generosity, we raised an **extra £490.00** for the Parish. God bless you all!!

First Holy Communion June 2023 – Children of P3 age or above are invited to prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, which will take place on Sunday 11 June 2023 (Corpus Christi). Weekly classes will begin in January. Please email the parish to request an application form, or speak to Fr Domenico. Forms to be returned by 31 December.

TODAY: *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. Fr Domenico will bless all '*Bambinelli*' at the conclusion of our Sunday Mass. '*This beautiful tradition helps to focus children's minds on the real reason for Christmas: the birth of our Lord Jesus.*'

Next Monday, 19 December: St. Columba's Christmas Carol Concert, 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Back by popular demand – a date for your diaries! After a three-year hiatus, 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, together with special guest appearances! Donations at the door– suggested offerings are: £5 for adults; kids go free! Why not invite some friends and come along?!!

Looking Ahead.. Christmas Mass Times at St. Columba's:

Christmas Vigil (Sat 24 Dec):

Carol Service: 9.00 pm; Vigil Mass: 9.30 pm

Christmas Day (Sunday 25 Dec):

Mass of Christmas Day: 9.30 am

Gift Aid: our bank balance stands at just over £30,000 (see below), thanks to a Gift Aid rebate of **£ 8,541.81** for the tax year 2021-22. It will see us in good stead in the coming months, with rising energy costs. It literally pays to Gift Aid your contributions! It costs you nothing extra, and allows us to claim an additional 25 %. If you don't already do it, why not consider it?

Prize Bingo: continues after the Christmas Season – eyes down again on **Friday 27 January 2023**, and thereafter on the last Friday of each month. Thank you for all of the wonderful items that you have handed in. Items that can be given as prizes are always needed; non-perishables can be handed in at any time.

90 Club: November Winners! – First Prize: Anne Johnstone; Second Prize: Edith Grant; Third Prize: Cath Grant. The last draw of 2022 **will take place on Sunday 25th December!** Good luck all with a number. We begin again on 29 January 2023. Envelopes for your dues are on the table at the front door. Numbers are still available if you would like to join in this parish fundraiser. Please ask Don for details.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Ian Macdonald, Kathleen Macpherson, Marian Ellis, Chris Hamilton, Rina Herbison, David Munro, Ellen Williams, Rose Corbett, Winnie Ferrari, Eileen Anne Millar, Tony Lightfoot

RIP: Alison MacDonald

Anniversaries: Rose Russell, George Smith, Kerry Green, Marion Wynne