



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**24 DECEMBER 2023:**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**(Year B (II); Psalter: Week 4)**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5; 8-12, 14, 16  
 Resp. Psalm: 88 (89): 2-5, 27, 29  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 16: 25-27  
 Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 24 December	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B (p. 57) / CAROL SERVICE VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS (p. 84)</b>	<b>Live-Streamed Holy Mass Carol Service Live-Streamed Holy Mass</b>	<b>9.30 am 9.00 pm 9.30 pm</b>
Monday 25 December	<b>MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY (p. 92)</b>	<b>Live-Streamed Holy Mass</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
Tuesday 26 December – Saturday 30 December	<b>** NO LITURGIES DURING CHRISTMAS WEEK **</b>	---	---
Sunday 31 December	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY (p. 97)</b>	<b>Live-Streamed Holy Mass</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
Monday 1 January 2024	MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (p. 109) Mass Intention: Gerry Allen, RIP (Recently Departed)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Tuesday 2 January	Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors Mass Intention: Michelle Campbell, RIP (Anniversary on 26 December)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 4 January	Of the Day Mass Intention: Brian Mitchell, RIP (Anniversary on 30 December)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 6 January	Of the Day Mass Intention: Ali McDonald, RIP (Departed on 10 December)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 7 January	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (p. 119)</b>	<b>Live-Streamed Holy Mass</b>	<b>9.30am</b>

### Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Mystery Kept Secret

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Second Reading, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9). Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see Isaiah 7:13-14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible. Mary is hailed as the "daughter Jerusalem," called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty Saviour (see Zephaniah 3:14-17). The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High"—an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18-19). He will fulfil the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end. He is to rule over the house of Jacob—the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see Exodus 19:3), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see Isaiah 2:1-5). Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience—that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word. (Scott Hahn)

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP HUGH TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened which the Lord has made known to us” (Lk 2:15). This is what the shepherds say to one another after the angel has shared the Good News of the Saviour’s birth. Once again, we too want to go to Bethlehem and to see God’s gift in the new-born Child. Even if we are physically alone, we don’t go alone. We go with believers all over the world as members of the Church, walking together and in communion with one another and the Successor of Peter. We go with the people we carry in our hearts. We go mindful of those enduring war or sickness or hardship and who may not be able to acknowledge Christ or experience any of the joy the angels announce. We go for others as well as ourselves, simply and doggedly like the shepherds and the wise men. Even animals and angels are involved: the whole of creation is realigned by the Child in the manger. He is the still centre of the turning world. He is magnetic, with a power to draw which is all his own. And when we reach him, what do we see, what do we come to? “To the things that cannot be and that are”, as someone wisely and wonderfully said.

Things that cannot be and that are:

- a virgin who is a mother,
- a man who is God,
- men and women born again to eternal life as children of the Father.

These are things that, left to ourselves, we would all say “cannot be”, that don’t happen. But Christmas says they have happened and “are”. Wonders. We are so sure we know what’s possible, what can happen and what can’t. We are so stuck in our mindsets. Christmas blows things open. Christmas gives birth to other possibilities. We are allowed to imagine and dream. We can venture and dare. We can try. Above all, in faith and hope, we can entrust our baffled selves and our ravaged world to an ultimate Love.

We can learn what Mary learned: “nothing is impossible to God” (Lk 1:37).

I wish you all the best of Christmasses,  
Yours devotedly in Christ, + *Hugh OSB*

### PARISH NEWS

#### Today’s Liturgy: Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B (p. 57)

p. 521: Introductory Rites  
p. 57: Readings & Proper Prayers  
p. 540: The Creed

p. 550: Preface II of Advent  
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II  
p. 631: Communion Rite

**Thank you!** – Fr. Domenico would like to thank you for all the kind wishes, Christmas cards, and gifts that he has received. They are much appreciated. Thanks also to those of you who assist in any way in our parish: without you, our liturgies and events would not be possible! Finally, to all the parishioners of St. Columba’s, in great gratitude for your support, patience, and prayers throughout the past year. As a parish family, we rely on one another, and each of you has your part to play.

**Our Christmas Crib Appeal this year is for ‘War Child’** – this is the only specialist charity for children affected by warfare and conflict. Whether it’s food, shelter, or mental health first aid, War Child works in the hardest to reach places, ensuring vulnerable children and their families can survive.

**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!

**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: only £2 monthly, and you could win one of 3 prizes. Speak to Don.

**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, or to Fr. Domenico.

### 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, Esther Smith, Linda Macdonald, Pat Peteranna, Lauren Marsh, Katie MacCormick, Brian Hamilton, Dorothy Macdonald, Cathy Grant, John MacPhee

**R.I.P:** Gerry Allen, Ali McDonald

**Anniversaries:** Michelle Campbell, Brian Mitchell, Fr. Calum McNeill, Roseanne Stewart MacLennan, Mary Melling, Patricia O’Riordan, Ishbel MacGillivray-McGregor