



St. Columba's, Culloden

Tower Road, Culloden, Inverness, IV2 7PW
Tel: (01463) 794619 (Sacristy) / (01463) 794993 (House)
E-mail: stcolumbasculloden@outlook.com
Website: www.stcolumbasculloden.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolumbasculloden
Parish Priest: Fr. Domenico Zanrè
Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Dr. Helen Macdonald



~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

27 NOVEMBER 2022:
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Year A (I); Psalter: Week 1)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah: 2: 1-5
Resp. Psalm: Ps 121 (122): 1-2, 4-5, 6-9
2nd Reading: Romans 13: 11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 27 November	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A (p. 27) Second Collection: Aid to the Church in Need	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am
Tuesday 29 November	Tuesday of Week 1 in Advent	NO MASS TODAY	---
Thursday 1 December	Thursday of Week 1 in Advent	NO MASS TODAY	---
Saturday 3 December	St. Francis Xavier, Priest	NO MASS TODAY	---
Sunday 4 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A (p. 31)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am

First Sunday of Advent: In A Dark Hour

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. Christ occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26).

His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we do not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him—spiritually and morally—when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In today's Second Reading, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night.

Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord—that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5–7). It is time we start living like it: throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, rejecting the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace.

The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.

As we sing in today's Psalm, "let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

"In these four weeks of Advent, the liturgy leads us to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus, while it reminds us that he comes into our lives every day, and will return gloriously at the end of time. This certainty enables us to look trustfully to the future, as we are invited to do by the prophet Isaiah, who with his inspired voice accompanies the entire Advent journey."

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy (CTS New Sunday Missal): First Sunday of Advent, Year A (p. 27)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 27: 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 30 November (St. Andrew) – St. Lawrence, Dingwall – Fr. Andrew Niski / St. Andrew Community

Wednesday 07 December (St. Ambrose/Eve of the Immaculate Conception) – St. Mary's Beaulieu – Fr. Laurence Gambella

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

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?

Saturday 10 December: Children's Christmas Party, 2.00pm– 4.00pm. Santa has been notified, and has promised us that he will come to visit St. Columba's! Please note, Mums: Selection Boxes wrapped up – also something for our guest gent. Wrapped prizes for games (small items): 6-8 of them. There will be music, games, surprises, and much more! All children very welcome! Chairs cleared and hall set up: 12.30pm. Parents: please let us know if your child/children are coming (provide name and contact details). Please note, Mums: Selection Boxes wrapped up – also something for our guest gent. Wrapped prizes for games (small items): 6-8 of them. After Santa has returned to Lapland, the tables return to the cupboard chairs laid out for Sunday Mass, please.

Day of Mission Retreat: Saturday 10 December, at Stratherrick. See the poster for details.

Bambinelli Sunday: Sunday 11 December – Fr Domenico will bless all 'Bambinelli', or baby Jesus figures, at the Sunday Mass. *'This beautiful tradition helps to focus children's minds on the real reason for Christmas: the birth of our Lord Jesus.'*

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?!! Spread a little festive cheer!

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

Christmas Vigil (Sat 24 Dec):
Christmas Day (Sunday 25 Dec):

Carol Service: 9.00 pm; Vigil Mass: 9.30 pm
Mass of Christmas Day: 9.30 am

Prize Bingo: continues this Friday, 2 December – eyes down at 7pm; come early to be sure of a seat! Thank you for all of the wonderful items that you have handed in. Items that can be given as prizes are always needed; thank you for your continued support. After the holiday period, we will play our games on the last Friday of each month, beginning on Friday 27 January 2023.

90 Club: Draw after Mass today, Sunday, 27 November! – Good luck to all with a number. Only one more draw this year; we recommence in 2023. Envelopes for dues will be placed on the table in the entrance foyer in due course.

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: Marilyn Barker, Isobel Macdonald, Campbell Macpherson

Anniversaries: Anastasia MacLeod, Wally Pocock, Thressiama Thomas, Andrew MacDonald, Martin Regan