



# St. Columba's, Culloden

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## ~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

**3 DECEMBER 2023:  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
(Year B (II); Psalter: Week 1)**

## Mass Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8  
Resp. Psalm: 79 (80): 2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9  
Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 3 December	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B (pp. 44 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am
Tuesday 5 December	Tuesday of Week 1 in Advent Mass Intention: 'Private Intention'	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 7 December	Thursday of Week 1 in Advent	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 9 December	Saturday of Week 1 in Advent	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 10 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B (pp. 48 ff.)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30am

### First Sunday of Advent: Watch For Him

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading. In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people. Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves. And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him? God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love. In Jesus, we have seen the Father (see John 14:8-9). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (see John 10:11-15) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him. As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him. So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel: be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return. (Scott Hahn)

### 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 24 December AND Monday 25 December are HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION.**

Tuesday 26 December – Saturday 30 December: No Liturgies at St. Columba's

## PARISH NEWS

### Today's Liturgy: First Sunday of Advent, Year B (pp. 44 ff.)

p. 521: Introductory Rites  
p. 44: Readings & Proper Prayers  
p. 540: The Creed

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

**Welcome!** – Today we welcome Mr. Paul Haringman and his family. Paul has worked with Fr. Domenico over the last four months to produce the beautiful new stained-glass windows that you see in the Sanctuary. Paul will talk to us about the iconography and spirituality contained in the designs, and he will be available at the end of Mass for a chat.

**New Music Settings for the Mass!** – today we introduce the 'New People's Mass', written by the Benedictine monk, organist, and composer Dom Gregory Murray OSB (1905-1992). We will be learning the various parts of this new setting throughout Advent.

**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!

**Highland Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar** – if you have been collecting for the Highland Foodbank throughout the month of November, would you be so kind as to hand in your items as soon as possible, please, so that the parcels can be made up and distributed in December? Many thanks.

**Advent Reflections: each Wednesday evening during Advent, from 6.00pm-7.30pm**, the Priests of the Highland Deanery have arranged reflections in different parishes. There will be Eucharistic Adoration, opportunities for Confession, Night Prayer, and Benediction. Here are the dates, locations, and speakers:

**Wednesday 06 December** (St. Nicholas) – St. Ninian's Inverness – Fr. Justin Edathil

**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 7 December: Parish Pastoral Council** – a meeting of the PPC will take place after the evening Mass on Thursday 7 December. If you have any issues that you would like raised, please contact Fr. Domenico.

**Saturday 9 December, 10am-3pm: Day of Recollection at Stratherrick** – for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. With two talks, Rosary, Mass, opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession, lunch, Adoration and Benediction. All welcome!

**Thursday 21 December, 7.00pm-8.00pm: St. Columba's Christmas Carol Concert!** – a date for your diaries! 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 the St. Andrew Community and members of their youth group. 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!

**Gift Aid:** we have received from HMRC our Gift Aid **payment for 2022-2023, which is £7769.77**. As you can see, Gift Aiding your contributions to the parish is a wonderful way of increasing your support for St. Columba's.. at no extra cost to yourselves!

**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: 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.

**Christmas Prize Bingo!** – on **Friday 1 December. 'Eyes down' at 7.00pm**. All welcome! Items for prizes are always needed, such as: toiletries, chocolates, jigsaws, store vouchers, wine/spirits, and anything that you would like to win yourselves!

## 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:** Alice Keeler, Cath MacLeod, Rita Harkins, Angela Deans, Tim Grout