

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

Palm Sunday - Year A
2nd April 2023

Fr Michael Fitzsimons Tel. 0151 936 7688

Parish Office Tel. 0151 489 1802

Email: cjf@rcaol.org.uk

Website: www.columba-johnfisher.org.uk

In the Footsteps of Jesus in Jerusalem

Our scripture stories from today Palm Sunday and during our Holy Week now move us firmly in to the setting of Jerusalem. 'Next Year in Jerusalem' is a phrase or prayer often proclaimed by Jewish people at the end of a Passover Seder meal and this week often takes me back to the actual sights of pilgrimage in the Holy Land and especially in and around Jerusalem. I have never been in Jerusalem for Holy Week but the Christians in Jerusalem have a huge procession from the top of the Mount of Olives, down past the garden of Gethsemane, into then on into the Old City of Jerusalem. It is a huge event and the procession is led by the priests and the marching bands including bagpipes and drums. It sounds like an amazing event.

Just thinking about that and writing the names of the places associated with our Holy Week journey - the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, Golgotha - brings to my mind those places I have been privileged to visit on pilgrimage. Relatively few of us may have visited Jerusalem but we all will be all 'taken there' this week on our personal

journey following in the footsteps of our Lord as he enters in Jerusalem in glory, the love of the Last Supper, the agony in the garden and the suffering of the Passion. In many ways Holy Week is a personal pilgrimage we can walk with our Lord and our friend.



Palm Sunday Children's Activities - 4pm

Craft activities and prayers for children and families today at 4pm at St Columba's. There will be children's, activities and crafts and a short time of prayer to help us enter into the joy of Easter.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass is held in the Cathedral as part of our Holy Week celebrations. All the priests gather with the Archbishop to renew their priestly vows and also the Holy Oils of Baptism, Chrism and the Sick are consecrated and blessed for use across the Archdiocese at Baptisms Confirmations, Ordinations and for the Anointing of the Sick. The coach will pick up at St. John Fisher at 6.15pm and St Columba at 6.30pm. There are still a few places available on the coach if you would like to attend.

Easter Triduum

The Easter Triduum is the name for the three main Easter services Starting with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, The Passion of the Lord on Good Friday and finishing with the Easter Vigil. They really are one service that flow from one another but of course we do celebrate them separately. Do give some thought if you are able to attend some or all them as they mark the climax of the end of Lent and the wonderful celebration of Easter.

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

Collections: Weeks 5th Feb - 5th Mar TOTAL £1763.82
CAFOD Fast Day £194.00
Nugent £178.69

Nugent Thanks

Thank you for your on going generosity is supporting Nugent our official Archdiocesan caring services. Our second collection raised £178.69 which adds to your continuing donations to the charity shop.

Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 1st/2nd April

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (People of the Parish)

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Murphy and Yates Family)

Tuesday 4th March

9.15am Mass at St C (Phil Kirkbride)

Wednesday 5th April

9.15am Mass at St JF (Thanksgiving to St Joseph)

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral at 7.30pm

Thursday 6th April - Maundy Thursday

7pm Mass of the Lords Supper at St John Fisher

Friday 7th April - Good Friday

3pm The Passion of the Lord in BOTH churches

Saturday 8th - Holy Saturday

8.30pm Easter Vigil at St Columba

Sunday 9th April - Easter Sunday

9am Easter Morning Mass at St John Fisher

11am Easter Morning Mass at St Columba



Holy Week

Gift Aid

As we come to the start of a new tax year can I ask if you can consider filling in a Gift Aid form if you regularly give to the parish and you pay tax. It is a simple form and your details will be kept confidential. Basically it means that we as the parish can claim from the government an extra 25p for every pound you donate at no extra cost to you. Forms are available at St Columba from Jim or see Fr Michael at St John Fisher.

We also would encourage you to consider making your payments by standing order - it makes financial planning more simple and its also a more secure way of giving. Again forms are available at both churches.

Parish Committee

The parish committee met last week. We reviewed our activities in Lent and checked on our plans for Easter. Looking ahead we also thought we would plan a few more social events for after Easter. We thought about the parish feasts days, agreed that we would hold another quiz night in April (so start revising and brushing up your trivia knowledge now!), and Fr Michael will give a talk and share photos on his time in Ethiopia. We did not have time to discuss our parish finances but plan to do this at our next meeting. Membership of the committee is open to anyone who wishes to join. Please speak to Fr Michael or any of the members if you are interested in joining.



Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Les Orritt, Joan Haigh, Norma Pritchard, Loretta McDonnell, M. Rivi, Thomas Hopkins, Amy Murphy, Joseph Cameron, Sharon Whitting, Rowan Sanderson, Karen Duffy, James Murphy, Betty Stewart, Elizabeth Jones, Marie Shepherd

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are

Jan Box 0151 548 5268 and Colette Murphy 07796291485

Please contact them if you have any concerns relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults in our parish.