

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
5th February 2023

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A World of Difference

This week I was asked by CAFOD if I could share some reflections for them in their newsletter on what it means to be a campaigner for justice and peace. I began by thinking about the work of CAFOD and the good news that this is but I couldn't help being drawn back to reality and the huge differences in our world. This is the week that British Gas contractors have been found forcing their way in vulnerable people homes to forcibly install prepayment meters which mean when they have no cash to hand they will go cold whatever the weather or conditions. We are also aware of the huge profits being made by oil and fuel companies - British Gas predicting an eightfold increase in earnings and companies such as BP and Shell reporting eye-watering profits of billions of pounds. I just can't see how it can be said we are all in this together - we just cannot believe that the richest few are getting richer and the poorest locally and globally are getting poorer.

The world of the Gospel is a totally different perspective - the poor become our focus in thought, heart, spirit and action. This week we received thanks from the Knowsley Foodbank to let us know our donations are already being appreciated by their service users, we are finalising our Nugent donations and have sent our financial support to Pax Christi. I am confident that Gospel values are alive and well in our parish. We can all campaign both formally in our support and engagements with our charity partners but let us commit to use our voices, energy and prayers to become deeper advocates for justice and peace however we can.

Appreciation from Fr. Anthony

Some memories are unforgettable, remaining ever vivid and heart-warming! This is how I felt after an amazing one month well spent among you at both St. John Fisher and St. Columba. Indeed, when you feel extremely thankful for something, translating your gratitude into words can be difficult. This is how I feel right now. However, I shall try my best to express my gratitude because showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other. Besides, saying "thank you" is more than good manners, it is good spirituality and I am glad to practicing exactly that. Thank you so much! I am happy to inform you all that I arrived safely back in Ghana to continue my ministry at the Spiritan Formation House at Ejisu and also at the St. Gregory the Great Provincial Seminary. Words cannot express how grateful I am right now but, the truth is that I really would like to express my deepest appreciation for the warm welcome that I received during my stay with you all. You went out of your way to make me feel comfortable, which enabled me to get to know and appreciate the parish community, thank you so much. I left Manchester on Saturday afternoon, the 14th of January, and I arrived safely in Ghana via Istanbul on Sunday evening, the 15th of January 2023. I had no time to rest. I had to continue my journey right away to my Religious community at Ejisu, which is about 5 hour drive by coach from Accra. I arrived at Ejisu on Monday at about 3:30 am and after about 2 hours of sleep, our seminarians were surprised to see me at Mass at 6 am and also at lectures at 8 am. I shared with them my holiday experiences including showing them my special scouse passport and Scouse learning book which some of you gave me as a special Christmas gift as well as my visit to Edinburgh. Funny enough, they were all made up when I started speaking and using some of my newly acquired "posh" Scouse phrases. Last Friday, we welcomed all our 250 seminarians who are undergoing their priestly formation at the St. Gregory the Great Provincial Seminary with two days of Recollection (Retreat). I directed the retreat and shared with them my experiences over the yuletide. The theme for the retreat was "Sir, We want to see Jesus" (John 12:20-24). Ending the recollection with Vespers and Benediction on Sunday evening, we started our last semester for the academic year which would come to an end in May. We do hope and pray that all goes well for us during this new semester. Once again, using this opportunity, I would like to thank Fr. Michael in a special way and also to thank the whole parish community. I am most grateful for your kind hospitality! As Mother Teresa once said, "kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." Thank you so much for everything. I did enjoy my stay over the Christmas period. Do remember my seminarians and I in your prayers as we do remember you all in ours. Hopefully, we shall once again see ourselves over the summer. I appreciate everything you did more than you would ever know. May God bless you all.

Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 4th/5th February

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Chris Pearson)

Tuesday 7th February

9.15am Mass at St C (Margaret Purcell)

Wednesday 8th February

9.15am Mass at St JF (Mary Wilde)

Thursday 9th February

9.15am Mass at St C (Patricia Chisnall)



Next Weekend 4th/5th February

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Kathleen Molloy)

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

Collections: Weeks 1st Jan - 28th Jan TOTAL £1448.84

Pax Christi Peace Sunday Collection 197.13



Quiz Night

Put your thinking caps on for our social Quiz Night on Friday 24th February in the parish room at St Columba's. We will start at 7pm. Light refreshments and snacks will be

provided but if you want anything stronger eg beer or wine you can bring your own - it might strengthen your thinking power to answer the questions! As ever the word of the quiz master will be final - and as it is Fr Michael he will be very strict but fair!

Lourdes Pilgrimage, Hospitalite Group

This weekend there will be short talk at the end of each Mass about the work of the Lourdes Hospitalite who take care of our sick pilgrims in Lourdes and how you may wish to get involved.

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. It is a very special Mass and a true gathering of the whole Archdiocese. Last year we provided a coach for those who wished to attend. This year the Mass is on the evening of Wednesday 5th April and we will likely be leaving around 6pm. If you think you would like to go please sign up on the sheets at the back of the churches so we can plan for the size of the coach. There will be small donation towards the cost of the coach. We will confirm details when we see how many are interested in attending.

Re Gifting for Nugent

Any final items, unwanted gifts, clothes, books bric a bra etc

**WE HAVE ARRANGED THE NEXT COLLECTION ON
WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY**

so please bring your donations in prior to that date.



Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Les & Mary 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.