

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
19th February 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



Looking Forward to Lent

I can't honestly say I have found myself saying how lovely it is we are starting Lent next week or I am so looking forward to it. Of course we get the delight of Pancake Day/Shrove

Tuesday first and that can be fun but then it gets serious - penance, fasting, abstinence and it starts to sound a bit hard work and even miserable. But if I think of Lent as a time of renewal, re-evaluation and re-energising my commitment it starts to take on a different tone and possibly even becomes a bit exciting.

Lent is about change, and change is so often a positive thing. It moves us forward, it can improve our sense of self and our purpose. When thinking about our world there is much we may like to change, encouraging peace, the impact of climate change, the cost of living and the healthcare crisis and the hatred and intolerance displayed at the Suites Hotel last week. These are serious issues that we would want to add our voices to call for change but we must also look more inwardly to our own lives. Have we been wasteful or extravagant, have we harboured resentment? And here will many other issues for each of us individually and personally to consider. Tough issues and tough questions. Lent is certainly a time of challenge but that can be a positive and uplifting. I am going to look forward to lent as if it brings just a few changes in my life I will welcome that.

Our Journey through Lent

Lent starts with **Ash Wednesday Masses** with distribution of ashes
Wednesday 22nd February

9.15am at St John Fisher

7pm at St Columba

Stations of the Cross will be on Wednesdays
from 1st March

1pm at St Columba

7pm at St John Fisher



Lenten Reflection/Study Sessions

These are being held at St John Fisher on Thursday evenings at 7pm
2nd/9th/16th March

Palm Sunday 2nd April Children's Activities

Craft activities and prayers for children and families
4pm at St Columba



Holy Week

Wednesday 5th April

Chrim Mass at the Cathedral at 7.30pm



Thursday 6th April - Maundy Thursday

Mass of the Lords Supper 7pm at St John Fisher



Friday 7th April - Good Friday

The Passion of the Lord 3pm in BOTH churches

Saturday 8th - Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil

8.30pm at St Columba



Sunday 9th April - Easter Sunday

Easter Morning Mass

9am at St John Fisher

11am at St Columba

Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 18th/19th February

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Margaret Kirkwood)

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (People of the Parish)

Tuesday 21st February

10.15am Mass at St C (Norah Chambers)

Wednesday 22nd February - Ash Wednesday

9.15am Mass at St JF (LISC)

7.00pm Mass at St C (Ann Goggins)

Thursday 23rd February

9.15am Mass at St C (In Thanksgiving)

1.45pm Funeral Service at St C for Delia Langstaff



Next Weekend 25th/26th February

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (James Murphy)

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

Parish Committee

The parish committee met last week. We reviewed our plans for Lent and Easter and the various activities and services planned. We also looked at how we are starting to recover as a community after the long lockdowns of the past few years. We reflected that we have restarted many parish activities such as social events, the parish feast day celebrations, and food bank collections. We also noted that we had started new work with children and families.

At our next meeting we are going to look at our parish finances. So you can see we consider many aspects of our parish life. 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.

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.

We have booked a coach for those who wished to attend. 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. We will ask for a donation towards the cost of the coach.

Quiz Night - this Friday!

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!



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.