

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

5th Sunday of Lent - Year A
26th March 2023

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Pastoral Plan - Caring for our Priests

This week we have a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Malcolm . He speaks about our pastoral plan following on from Synod 2020 and especially about the theme of caring for priests. It may be helpful to put this into context.

In years to come the numbers of priests available for ministry will be greatly reduced. Alongside of that is the reality of falling numbers who attend or volunteer in our parishes and all that this implies. So we need a strategic look at how things will be in the future.

There are currently 105 Archdiocesan priests. Of these 74 are under the age of 70. (24 are under 50, 15 are between 51 and 60 and 35 are 60 – 69) There are still 31 priests aged 70 – 75+ with a full-time appointment.

This means that in 2030 we are likely to have 74 priests and in 2040 the figure is likely to be 39 priests. In the diocese we have 140 parishes (21 are looked after by religious orders or congregations.)

This is the context in which priesthood is lived out in the Archdiocese and out of which these reflections are emerging.

There is clearly a need to change both for priests and for people. The priests will be looking at renewed ways of working together and supporting each other as well as issues of workload and priests can plan to retire and still keep pastorally active with out the burdens of administration and holding office. We will all have to think what this is telling us about becoming the church we are called to be.

Our Journey through Lent

Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays will finish this coming week.

1pm at St Columba

7pm at St John Fisher



Palm Sunday 2nd April Children's Activities

Craft activities and prayers for children and families next Sunday 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.

Holy Week



Wednesday 5th April

Chrism 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



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.

Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 25th/26th March

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Ann Whiteway)

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



Tuesday 28th March

9.15am Mass at St C (Betty Woodruff)

12noon Funeral Service for Mary Orrit at St C

Wednesday 29th March

9.15am Mass at St JF (Victims of Abuse)

Thursday 30th March

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St C

Next 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)

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

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

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 at 7.30pm. The coach will pick up at St. John Fisher at 6.15pm and St Columba at 6.30pm. 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.

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.