

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
29th January 2023

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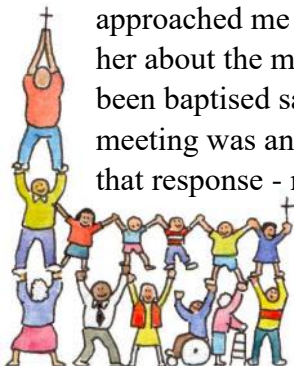
Website: www.columba-johnfisher.org.uk

Synod - and Our Parish, Children and Families

Last week I wrote about the ongoing Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese after Synod 2020. About a year ago we held an open parish meeting here to highlight some areas we felt we could work on. One element we chose was our work with children and young families. So what have we been able to do here in our parish?

Well since then we have been able to change and develop how families register their children for Baptism and our initial meeting with them. Prior to then the families just filled an application form in and booked in the Baptism date. Now we hold a monthly gathering for parents who wish to have their children baptised. They receive a warm welcome and some basic information about the service and also some information on how they can pray with their child and develop their faith as a family. The practicalities of booking the date are all dealt with at that meeting too. I think it is a much warmer and better way of getting to know the families. Recently after a Baptism here another mother

approached me to ask about having her child baptised. I was telling her about the meetings and the mother of the child who had just been baptised said to her how lovely and welcoming the meeting was and that you even got a cup of tea! It was great to hear that response - recommendation is the best advert!



We have welcomed the Knowsley Catholic Children's Choir to a parish Mass and held our first Christingle children's service before Christmas.

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We hope to have the choir back sometime this year and are planning a Lent/Easter activity and service for children too. I think it is fair to say these have been good developments and working with our parish schools we can continue to really help and develop our parish support for children and families.

Baptism Preparation Meeting

Our next Baptism preparation meeting is this Wednesday 1st February &pm at St John Fisher Church. If you have children you to have baptised please come along or email Fr Michael for details of future meetings.



Lourdes Pilgrimage, Hospitalite Group

Next 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.

Quiz Night

Put your thinking caps on as we plan to hold a social Quiz Night on Friday 24th February in the parish room at St Columba's. Keep the date free and further details will be shared nearer the time



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.

Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 28th/29th January

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Anita Moorcroft)

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

Tuesday 31st January

9.15am Mass at St C (Marie Bligh)

Wednesday 1st February

9.15am Mass at St JF (LISCF)

Thursday 2nd February

9.15am Mass at St C (Kathy Molloy)



Next Weekend 4th/5th February

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Chris Pearson)

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

Collections: Weeks 1st Dec - 31st Dec TOTAL £1925.58
including Christmas offerings.

Looking to Lent

Although we have just started Ordinary time in our church calendar Lent is not too far away starting on Ash Wednesday 22nd February. We plan to a range a Lent activities including of the Cross, Lenten reflection/study evenings, and an event for children. Like last year we also plan to offer coach transport to the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on Wednesday 5th April. This is just advance notice and further information will be shared in the next few weeks.



Re Gifting for Nugent

At Christmas we sometimes receive a gift that was given with love but it is something we will never use or just don't want, or we get two of the same thing. It may be a toiletry set that we don't use, two separate gifts of a pair of slippers or just a gift that we know we will never use. A great way of continuing the spirit of the Christmas gifts is to pass them on to Nugent where they will be sold in the charity shop or used directly in their services. I think it's a great way of honouring the original gift giver and continues the joy of Christmas.



Also at this time we have received new gifts and sometimes are sorting out space in our cupboards and shelves and now have donations of clothes, books, bric-a-brac etc. So once again please bring in your unwanted gifts and good quality spare items and we will donate them to Nugent. Just hand them in at the back of either church and we will arrange for a general central collection by Nugent. Nugent are not able to accept donations of furniture or electrical goods or children's toys.

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

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, Brendan Burns, Rosemary McQueen

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.