

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

27th Sunday Ordinary Time
8th October 2023

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A Belated Yet Heartfelt Thank You

Dear Fr. Michael and Parishioners of St. Columba and John Fisher, With a heart full of gratitude and deep appreciation, I pen this message, albeit a bit belatedly, to convey my sincerest thanks for the warm welcome and fellowship extended to me during this year's summer supply. First and foremost, please allow me to extend my sincerest apologies for the lateness of this message. Time and distance often play tricks on us, but rest assured, my feelings of profound appreciation and love for you all have remained constant and unwavering. I am profoundly grateful for your understanding as this message reaches you all later than I had hoped. Though delayed, this message comes from the depths of my heart and carries with it the immense gratitude I feel for each one of you.

My return to the Parish of St. Columba and John Fisher for this year's summer supply was, in every sense, a homecoming. Your warm welcome, though belatedly acknowledged, touched my soul in ways that words alone cannot express. The smiles, handshakes, and heartfelt greetings were a testament to the genuine love and friendship. They were like a soothing balm for my spirit, and for that, I am eternally grateful. Your hospitality and kindness touched my soul in a way that words can hardly capture. From the moment I set foot in our parish, the embrace of our faith community



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enveloped me like a warm, comforting blanket.

Though back to life in Ghana, to form future priests and missionaries for the Universal Church, I have missed you all deeply. The physical separation cannot diminish the strong connection and bond we share as a faith community. I want to take this moment to share with you that my seminarians here in Ghana have been fervently praying for all of you. Your intentions, your well-being, and your spiritual growth have been at the forefront of our prayers.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve you, to break bread with you, and to be a part of your lives. The memories of this summer supply will forever hold a special place in my heart. The experiences we have shared, the prayers we have offered, and the love we have exchanged have deepened our connection as a faith family. May the Lord continue to bless and watch over you all. I am most grateful to Fr. Michael and all of you. The memories and experiences I gathered during my visit will remain etched in my heart, and I eagerly look forward to the day when I can return to celebrate Mass with you once more. May God bless you all abundantly, and may our paths cross again in the not-too-distant future. Until then, please accept my heartfelt gratitude and warmest blessings.

With profound appreciation and warm regards,

Fr. Anthony Roger Afaako



CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal – Second Collection at Masses this week

Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most, fast – so when her team arrived in Meera's village in Pakistan after it had been destroyed by flooding, Meera rushed to the clinic to get her children the treatment they needed. Donate to CAFOD today so that more families can get the expert help they need. Use the envelope in church or give to the collection or give online at cafod.org.uk



Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 7th/8th October

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Maureen Valle)

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

Tuesday 10th October

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St C

Wednesday 11th October

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St JF

Thursday 12th October

9.15am Mass at St C (John Murphy)

Next Weekend 14th/15th October

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Thomas Kirkwood)

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



Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

Collections: Weeks 1st Sept - 1st Oct TOTAL £1463.18

Prisoners Sunday

Today is Prisoners' Sunday, the national day of prayer and action for prisoners and their dependants as marked by the Catholic Church and across the Christian denominations. It is a day to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners, their families and children. Prisoners' Sunday is the time to reflect on how we as individuals, as a Church and as a community are serving those affected by imprisonment.

Prisoners' families, prisoners and people with previous convictions often find themselves on the margins of society due to the social stigma associated with imprisonment. They are often forgotten or come lower down on the list of causes to 'hold a hand out to'. But the gospel of Matthew 25: 36 reminds us of our duties towards them: 'I was in prison and you came to see me'.

Please remember to pray for all prisoners, their families and those who work in our prisons.

Quiz Night

Back by popular demand put your thinking caps on once again for our social Quiz Night on Friday 27th October 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!

Book of Remembrance

You will have seen the Remembrance books in both churches recording the names of of family and friends from the parish who have died. If you wish to have names added to the book please fill in one of the forms available in both churches. The books are updated on a regular basis. As we look ahead to November a traditional time we pray for the dead you any wish to consider adding deceased members from our parish community into the book.



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.