

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B
14th January 2024

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Peace Sunday

The desire for peace in our world is felt more than ever. The ongoing wars in Gaza and Ukraine tell us of the immediate impact on the people there. Death, suffering and destruction happens on a daily basis. Of course that is just two countries as there is war and armed conflict in so many places that receive no coverage on our news and so are not in our awareness, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, just to name a few. The conflict in Tigray in Ethiopia is lessened now but the after-effects are still there. There remains a significant presence of soldiers but also armed militias so true peace and a sense of security is still to be achieved especially in more rural areas. The impact of the war has resulted in many orphans and displaced children, famine and hunger are a significant threat again and many women and children suffered brutal attacks and assault. Our Christmas donations have gone to CAFOD's emergency appeal in Gaza, meeting immediate needs of those suffering from war and the money sent to Ethiopia will be used by the Sisters of Charity to help with those suffering from the longer impact of war and violence which can mar their lives for many years.

Today is Peace Sunday, the official worldwide day of prayer for peace in our world. The snapshot above of just two conflicts show how much this day is needed. This week there will be a second collection to support the work of Pax Christi, the official church agency for peace.

Archbishop Malcolm is the President of Pax Christi and he asks us to support their work. Advocating for a just peace in Palestine and Israel is a part of the ongoing work of Pax Christi, alongside building a culture of nonviolence, campaigning against war, nuclear weapons and the arms trade. Supporting its members and the church,

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Pax Christi produces resources on peace and nonviolence issues, organises events and vigils, represents the Catholic church in the peace movement and works with young people in both schools and churches. More information can be found at <https://paxchristi.org.uk>

Children's Liturgy and Activities

Our Children's Liturgy and other activities for children and families have gone from strength to strength and are now fully part of our parish programme of services and activities. We have children's liturgy this week. The focus is for children aged 3-8 years old but other children are welcome too, but younger ones do have to be accompanied by a parent. The children will start Mass with their parents/families and then will be asked to come forward to take part and go into the meeting room to say prayers, listen to a child friendly Gospel reading and then share in activities. They will come back into church at the offertory and then rejoin their families. Parents are welcome to go with children especially with those who may be nervous at first or need extra help.

After this week the Children's Liturgy dates will be on the following dates

Sunday 11th February

Sunday 10th March

Sunday 14th April

Sunday 12th May



We will hold an Easter Family Craft afternoon on Sunday 24th March, Palm Sunday

Quiz Night

By popular demand it's back! Put your thinking caps on once again for our social Quiz Night on Friday 2nd 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!



Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 13th/14th January - Peace Sunday

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Maureen Vale)

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

Tuesday 15th January

9.15am Mass at St C (Les Wilson)

Wednesday 16th January

9.15am Mass at St JF (Margaret Cullen)

Thursday 17th January

9.15am Mass at St C (Mary Cowie)



Next Weekend 19th/20th January

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Cartwright Family and Friends)

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

Collections: Weeks 3rd Dec - 6th Jan TOTAL £1802.55

Second collection this week for Pax Christi



Parish Film Night

Advance notice for the return of the popular parish film night which was postponed last year. We will gather at 7pm Friday 8th March at St John Fisher Meeting Room. We will be watching Save the Cinema which, based on a true story, tells the story

of a local community trying to save its theatre and cinema. Drinks, ice cream and popcorn will be available.

Some Advance Dates for Easter and Lent

Ash Wednesday - 14th February

Chrism Mass - Wednesday 27th March at the Cathedral - we will book a coach for those wishing to go.

Easter Sunday - 31st March

We will be having various events and services during Lent - details will be shared in the coming 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. Please note Nugent are not able to accept donations of furniture or electrical goods or children's toys.



Catholic Pic

The latest edition of the Catholic Pic is available at the back of the churches this weekend. Feel free to take one home to read.

The online version can be accessed at the following link

<http://tinyurl.com/yn8n6v6r>



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, Eileen Hayden

Parish Safeguarding Representative

Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is

Jan Box 0151 548 5268

Please make contact if you have any concerns relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults in our parish.