

## **Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B  
4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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### **A Ceasefire for Gaza**

With the war in Gaza continually going on it has sometimes even begun to fall down in its coverage on our news. It is almost if, depressingly, we are getting so used to it that it hardly becomes news. The impact of the war is relentless and we need to maintain a voice calling for an urgent and hopefully permanent ceasefire. After the last ceasefire Gaza has witnessed some of the most intense bombardment yet, including in the south of Gaza where hundreds of thousands had sought safety. At the same time, the firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups into Israel has continued.

On the ground agencies such as CAFOD are still present working via their trusted partners but the poor winter weather has only increased the suffering of the people.

Over 18,000 Palestinians have been killed, 70% of them women and children and the UN estimates that 60% of all housing has been destroyed or damaged with 1.9 million people now displaced. Let us keep our voices to call for peace in Gaza and indeed across our world.

### **Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza**

Let us pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We remember especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies.

We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Lord hear us.





## 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.

## Parish Committee

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7th February 7pm at St John Fisher We will be finalising arrangements for Lent and Easter and looking ahead too.. As ever anyone is welcome to attend.

## Eucharistic Ministers

After our recent parish meetings a number of people have considered becoming Eucharistic Ministers to help with the distribution of Holy Communion during Mass or to take Holy Communion to the sick. I am looking at arranging training so if you feel you might wish to undertake these ministries please speak to Fr Michael so I can be sure of the numbers.



## First Communions

Children in our parish schools have started their preparation to receive their First Holy Communion in May. If you have a child in Year 4 who is not in a Catholic school or a school not in our parish but would wish them to make their First Holy Communion please contact Fr Michael via email as soon as possible



## Children's Liturgy

Next week we will be having Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass at St Columba's. All our children are welcome to attend.

# Masses & Services This Week

## Weekend 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Culley Family)

## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St C

## Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

9.15am Mass at St JF (Thanksgiving to Our Lady)

## Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

9.15am Mass at St C (Holy Souls)



## Next Weekend 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> February

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Franney Blennerhasset)

**Confession** - available before and after Mass or by appointment

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**Collections:** Weeks 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec - 6<sup>th</sup> Jan TOTAL £1802.55



## Ash Wednesday

Lent starts on 14<sup>th</sup> February with Ash Wednesday.

There will be Mass with distribution of ashes at 9.15am at St John Fisher Church and at 7pm at St. Columba.

## Some Advance Dates for Easter and Lent

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

Easter Sunday - 31<sup>st</sup> March

We will be having various events and services during Lent - details will be shared in the coming weeks.

## Thank You to Miss Evans

After many years of service teaching and leading our school Miss Evans has decided to retire from St Columba's school at the end of the school year. As we will say goodbye we will wish her well after her years of care and support for our children, families and parish.



We have started to prepare to recruit a new headteacher so please keep all involved in the process in prayer.

## 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. There is an article about the new structure of 'Families of Parishes' in the Archdiocese as we look towards changes in the future.

The online version can be accessed at the following link

<http://tinyurl.com/3s2es25x>

## Want this Newsletter Sent via Email?

The newsletter is sent out via email every week to people on our parish database. If you would like to receive via email (this saves on paper and printing costs and may be more convenient) please email us at [cjf@rcaol.org](mailto:cjf@rcaol.org) and ask to be added to the database.



### **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.