

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B
11th February 2024

Fr Michael Fitzsimons Tel. 0151 936 7688

Parish Office Tel. 0151 489 1802

Email: cjf@rcaol.org.uk

Website: www.columba-johnfisher.org.uk

A Preventable Famine?

There is alarming and sad news emerging from Ethiopia. There is and likely a high increase of famine. Many of you will remember the images from the terrible famines back in 1984 which led to the response of the world with the Band Aid and Live Aid pop concerts. The famine then was a direct result of war and armed conflict. Once again today the impact of two years of war and fighting has taken its toll. This has been compounded by severe drought and crop failures with the growing impact of climate change in the country.

I was last in Ethiopia in late 2018 before the covid pandemic and the war in Tigray. It was such a positive visit to see the developments in agriculture, irrigation and health and education. It is likely that most of this has been destroyed or severely damaged. The focus of the world may now be focussed elsewhere in Gaza and Ukraine but the long term impact of war is now so visible in Ethiopia.

It is essential that the world authorities take action now in order to prevent the disasters of 1984. CAFOD and other agencies are on the ground working through their trusted local partners but their ability to prevent the famine is limited without the political will and support of many world agencies.

Of course it is the poorest people who are suffering especially women and children. We can keep ourselves informed and also continue to support and pray for those like CAFOD working on the front line. Together let's keep hope that the famine will be prevented.

There are news reports you can watch at the following links but please note they contain some distressing images and stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTlcDJaOrvg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7qN5JvKKYg>



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.

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

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.



Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 10th/11th February

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Franney Blennerhasset)

Tuesday 13th February

9.15am Mass at St C (Mary Jones)

1.15pm Requiem Mass for Betty Stewart at St JF

Wednesday 14th February - Ash Wednesday

9.15am Mass at St JF (Alf and Anita Moorcroft)

7.00pm Mass at St C (Peter and Rosaleen Mountaine)

Thursday 15th February

9.15am Mass at St C (John Brazier)



Next Weekend 17th/18th February

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Margaret Kirkwood)

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

Confession - usually available before or after Mass, or by appointment

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

Second Collections

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day is Friday 23rd February and so we will have a second collection 24th/25th February to support the work of CAFOD. For those with access to the internet an excellent video outlining an inspiring story behind the appeal can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFWxJpczass>

The weekend 9th/10th March we will have a collection to support Nugent, our official archdiocesan caring and social action agency.

Catholic Pic

The latest edition of the Catholic Pic is available. 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>

Lent and Easter

Ash Wednesday



Lent starts on 14th 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.

Lent Reflection Evenings

This year our Lenten reflections will be on the theme of Care for Creation. Come and join us for a time of readings, Scripture, discussions, prayer and reflection. Reflection evenings will be 7pm on Thursdays at St John Fisher on the following dates

Thursday 7th March

Thursday 14th March

Thursday 21st March



Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass is at the Cathedral at 7.30pm Wednesday 27th March. The Chrism Mass is a key time in the life of the Archdiocese when each Holy Week the priests gather with the Archbishop and renew their priestly vows and the Sacramental Oils of Baptism, Chrism and the Sick are also consecrated. We will organise a coach for those who wish to attend. Please sign up on the sheets at the back of church if you wish to come on the coach.



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, Elizabeth Jones, Marie Shepherd, Eileen Hayden, Ruth Kemp

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.