

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

1st Sunday of Lent - Year B
18th February 2024

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Reflecting on Our Wilderness

We tend to think about the wilderness as being a wild and deserted place, devoid of other people, buildings, or shelter. That was the type of wilderness Jesus did indeed enter in our Lenten Gospels, but I am sure we have our own wilderness today, and that we do not need to go far to find it.

I have been very moved by the response of Esther Ghey, the mother of Brianna murdered in Warrington, who this week also met up with the father of Molly Russell whose 14 year old daughter committed suicide two years ago. Both parents united in the grief of losing a child in different circumstances but also recognising the role of social media in the actions that led to their children's death. They are now both calling for reform and better control and protection of all children in relation to social media.

Our world can seem to be very advanced, with great progression in technology and constantly moving forward. But I am not sure if many do not often feel isolated, excluded and afraid. Our young people can certainly find themselves navigating a social media 'desert' that can be extremely hostile to their health and potential. We can all email, use mobile phones and so on but there still feels to be a growing sense that something is missing in many lives and in our society. Perhaps these are our wildernesses that we can confront in Lent. Reflecting on the things in our lives that promote isolation, fear and disconnection may help focus our prayer and action to create the changes we need individually, together in society and as a human family.



Parish Film Night

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.

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day is this Friday. You may wish to fast for lunch or eat a more simple meal. Any saving or donation can be placed in the envelopes at the back of the churches or given directly to our second collection next weekend. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. 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>

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 17th/18th February

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Margaret Kirkwood)

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

Monday 19th February

12.00pm Funeral Service for baby Nyla-Rose McKeown at St JF

Tuesday 20th February

9.15am Mass at St C (Special Intention)

Wednesday 21st February

9.15am Mass at St JF (Peace)

Thursday 22nd February

9.15am Mass at St C (Josephine Hopkins)

Friday 23rd February

1.00pm Funeral Service for Joan Scamp at St C

Next Weekend 24th/25th February

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Maureen Valle)

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

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

Collections: Weeks 7th Jan - 4th Feb TOTAL £1422.70

Second Collections

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day second collection 24th/25th February to support the work of CAFOD.

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



Lent and Easter



Stations of the Cross

During Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays, 1pm at St. Columba Church and 7pm at St John Fisher Church.

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.