

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B
21st January 2024

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Going Fishing

I know nothing about fishing. I think I had a go a few times when I was a child but I don't remember catching anything! When visiting Fr Anthony in Ghana, his family home is right next to the sea and you can see hundreds of colourful fishing boats going out and returning every day, and some have religious quotes such as 'Praise the Lord' or a bible verse painted on the side. It looks like hard work to make a living like that and those who enjoy fishing as a hobby here at home probably have much more patience than I have. I must admit I do like the result of the fishers labours. Cod, battered from the chippy, sea bass, pan fried in a restaurant of freshly caught fish, grilled on the seashore in Ghana or Galilee. I am making myself hungry just thinking about it - and I am writing this on a Friday!

Jesus called his first followers at the side of the Sea of Galilee, Fishermen mending their nets but then asked to move and change. Initially I am not sure whether I think that the skills of fishermen are what is needed as proclaimers of the Good News, bringing this to anyone who will listen. But then maybe if I note above that fishing can be hard work, fishing needs patience, fishing needs a variety of skills - it's not just aimlessly sticking a rod in a river and expecting the fish to bite - maybe that's why Jesus turned to the fishermen first.

Today as baptised Christians we all pick up that calling as disciples to be fishers of people in our day and age. We will need patience, we will need all sorts of skills. But most of all, a willingness to listen to the Lord and be willing to follow.



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. 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. Parents are welcome to go with children especially with those who may be nervous at first or need extra help.

Children's Liturgy 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!



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.



Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 20th/21st January

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

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

Tuesday 23rd January

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St C

Wednesday 24th January

9.15am Mass at St JF (Betty Halloran)

Thursday 25th January

9.15am Mass at St C (Joanne Ramsey)



Next Weekend 27th/28th January

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Margaret Purcell)

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

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



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.