

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

Third Sunday of Easter - Year B
14th April 2024

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Beginning from Jerusalem....

A good few years ago I visited Mount Bental in the Golan Heights in Israel. You get scenic views over the Golan Heights and down across Syria too. This was a place of fierce fighting during the Yom Kippur war and today is still the site of a UN observation post monitoring the troubled border between Israel and Syria. As with many places there is an 'international sign post' showing the distances to various cities and places and there it has a very local, Middle Eastern feel with the city names Jerusalem (Israel), Bagdad (Iraq), Damascus (Syria), Amman (Jordan). In today's Gospel Jesus tells the disciples that the news of the resurrection is to be shared with the whole world 'beginning from Jerusalem'.

Archbishop Patrick was a frequent visitor to the Holy Land and especially Gaza and he would often say until there is peace in Jerusalem there will be no peace in the world. When reading today's Gospel, the image of that signpost somehow came into my mind.

Those places named on the signpost today seem more connected to conflict than ever. During our Easter season of light, joy and peace maybe this signpost leads us to pray for peace in the Middle East, especially in Gaza. Let the resurrection be a signpost of peace, hope and forgiveness, beginning in Jerusalem, and spreading through the whole world.



Safeguarding and DBS Checks

To continue processing the DBS checks, Jan will be at St John Fisher at 4.30 pm before Mass on Saturday 27th April and after Mass at St Columba on Sunday 28th April. If there are any queries, Jan can be contacted on mob 07851 550158 as there are currently problems with the land-line number given out.

Childrens Liturgy and Activities

The next dates for our monthly Childrens Liturgy at 11am Mass at St Columba's are:

Sunday 14th April
Sunday 12th May
Sunday 9th June
Sunday 14th July



We will then have a break and resume in September.



Looking Ahead

There are a few events and dates to look forward to in the coming weeks.

The Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse is observed on 30th April 2024.

We will be having a Missionary Appeal at Masses on 11th and 12th May.

A Mass for those affected by cancer Wednesday 15th May at 7pm at St Columba's

Our next parish social evening is a Cheese and Wine gathering at St John Fisher on Friday 17th May at 7pm



Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 13th/14th April

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Chris and Pearson Family)

Tuesday 16th April

9.15am Mass at St C (Ellen, John and Conlon Family)

Wednesday 17th April

9.15am Mass at St JF (Alex Gamble)

Thursday 18th April

9.15am Mass at St C (Deceased Members of the Chapter)

Weekend 20th/21st April

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Tucker Culley)

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

Collections: Weeks 3rd Mar - 7th Apr TOTAL £1867.33

Gift Aid

New envelopes are ready for collection for those who gift aid their parish donations. If your box is not there please speak to Jim and Mark at St Columba's or Fr Michael and Dave at St. John Fisher's and we will arrange for a box for you. As we come to the start of a new tax year can I ask if you can consider filling in a Gift Aid form if you regularly give to the parish and you pay tax. It is a simple form and your details will be kept confidential. Basically it means that we as the parish can claim from the government an extra 25p for every pound you donate at no extra cost to you. Forms are available at both churches or speak with the people above.

We also would encourage you to consider making your payments by standing order - it makes financial planning more simple and its also a more secure way of giving. Again forms are available at both churches



Forthcoming Elections - Election Focus on International Aid



Questions for Candidates/Parties

1. The UK has slashed its aid budget, turning its back on the fight against global poverty. Will you, if elected, agree to restore the aid budget to 0.7% of national income, as agreed in the International Development Act, and show that we are a country committed to making the world a better place for all?

2. Our overseas aid budget has not only been cut, but the department for international development has been shut down, and much of the remaining aid money has been redirected to domestic spending. Can you let me know what you will do to ensure Britain restores its aid budget and supports people across the world who are living in poverty?

More Information

Aid cuts have resulted in a 76% decline in aid to Afghanistan, and 45% decline to Yemen. NGOs have warned that this will have a particularly negative impact on women and girls who will be left without vital services.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) lost 95% of the UK's contribution to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative when the budget was cut, which could have helped vaccinate 380 million children.



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, 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.