

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

Divine Mercy Sunday
7th April 2024

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Easter People

All this week the Gospel readings at our midweek Masses have told the various accounts of Jesus's encounters with the disciples and his followers immediately after his resurrection. This has included the appearance to the disciples on their way to Emmaus which is one of my favourite Scripture passages. The disciples realised that their hearts 'burned within us' after they recognised Jesus at the breaking of the bread. Every Easter we recognise and welcome the renewal of the Risen Lord in our own lives. We pray that our hearts once again burn within us. Hearts of fire with faith and with care and love.

Allowing our hearts to burn would really change us into being Easter people. People with vision, love and trust in our hearts. I think any of us would say we want to be an Easter person but speaking personally I am also not sure I always make the cut. The companions at Emmaus immediately set out to share the Good News of the resurrection and took the risky night time journey back on the road to Jerusalem - at that time, night journeys were seen as risky and dangerous due to thieves, or violent attack, or simply hazardous in the dark - and yet that is what they did. As Easter people today are we willing to take the risk of helping the poor, welcoming the stranger, or thinking about how we can be the church we are called to be today. I know I want it, but I worry that it's challenging and outside my comfort zone at times. After the preparations of Lent and the immediate joys of the Easter celebrations we can enter into our Easter season, praying for our hearts to burn, so that we can truly become Easter people with the Light of the Lord burning in our hearts.

Safeguarding and DBS Checks

We are continuing to work on completing the DBS checks for the parish. If you have not already done so, please collect your pack from Fr Mike or Jan.

Jan will be at St John Fisher from 4.30pm on Saturday 6th April and at St Columba after Mass on Sunday 7th April to complete forms and photocopy documents. If anyone has any queries contact Jan on 0151 548 5268.

School News

Congratulation to Miss Edwards who has been appointed Headteacher at St Columba's Primary School from September after the retirement of Miss Evans - she is currently our deputy headteacher so we know her well!

Also St John Fisher's Primary school had their new Catholic Schools Inspection last week too. The results are not yet announced but we can be sure that all the staff and pupils represented the school very well. The inspection results will be announced in the new term.



Quiz Night



Our next ever popular quiz night at St Columba's is on Friday 12th April at 7pm. Come along and join in the fun. Any rumours that the questions are too difficult are just not true and anyway it's the taking part that counts!

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.



Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 6th/7th April

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Eileen Earle)

Tuesday 9th April

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St C

Wednesday 10th April

9.15am Mass at St JF (Mary Garnel)

Thursday 11th March

9.15am Mass at St C (Canon Vincent Burrows)



Weekend 13th/14th March

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

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

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

Collections: Weeks 5th Feb - 3rd Mar TOTAL £1502.15

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

In May we will be having local elections and of course the date of the general election at national level is constantly speculated about. CAFOD and the SVP are preparing information for Catholics to consider when thinking about their vote. In the coming weeks we can start sharing some of that information to help inform our voting intentions. It is fair to say that as a Catholic we should use our vote for the common good, protection of the vulnerable and poor, care for our planet and the integrity of life. It is easy to be cynical and say our vote does not make a difference or all politicians are the same. The right to vote is a precious one, and many people around the world do not have that freedom so it is always something we should carefully consider.



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.