

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

5th Sunday of Easter - Year C
Sunday 18th May 2025

Fr Michael Fitzsimons Tel. 0151 936 7688

Parish Office Tel. 0151 489 1802

Email: cjf@rcaol.org.uk

Website: www.columba-johnfisher.org.uk

Return to the Isle of St Columba

Having been lucky to go to Iona last year for a few days on retreat last year I am very pleased to be going back again this year for my retreat time again. Although the island is small - only 1.5 miles wide and 3 miles long - there is still some parts I have not seen and plenty of spaces I want to revisit. Last time I enjoyed a far too brief time at St Columba's Bay where it is thought that St Columba first landed from his voyage from Ireland. It's a lovely peaceful bay and if the weather stays warm, who knows I will go for a paddle or even a rather cold swim! New places I hope to visit and see this time are the old marble mine on the island and a couple of the bays and beaches including the White Strands of the Monks where I assume the monks enjoyed their time as its nearer to the Abbey!

I am staying in the Catholic Retreat House on the island but will also be attending Iona Abbey for prayers with the Iona Community which is now an international ecumenical community which always retains a presence in the Abbey.

Having been on Iona less than a year ago I feel lucky to be able to spend more time in a place so special to the life of St Columba, but of course we hosted his relics in the parish this year and I also saw the Book of Kells, the beautiful Book of the Gospels, crafted by his followers when I went to Dublin in March so in one sense I have felt very connected to St Columba this year. Maybe this visit will help me round off a year with St Columba!

I assure you of prayers during my time away and will light candle in the monastery for all in the parish.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The next dates for Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass are

Sunday 8th June (Pentecost)

Sunday 13th July



Family of Parishes News

The Family of Parishes Executive Group continues to meet and since Easter spent a whole day visiting the churches and other property across the Family of Parishes. Also all the priests from the Family of Parishes spent an overnight away in Chester to share and also think about plans for the future. All felt that our discussions were positive and our time was beneficial and well spent. There will be more news from the Family of Parishes in the near future

First Communion Masses

The time of year for our First Holy Communions are fast approaching. Later in May we will be celebrating First Communion Masses in both our churches with the children and families from each of our parish schools. Please keep the children and their families in prayer as they reach this special moment in their journey of faith.



Thanks

Thank you to local priests, Fr David and Fr Anton, who have stepped in at short notice to celebrate our Masses this weekend while Fr Michael is away. (Sadly Bishop John who was scheduled to be here has been unwell and is not able to come)

Visit of Fatima Statue and Relics

The Centenary Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the relics of Ss Jacinta and Francisco are coming to the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Monday 2nd June. On the day, there will be Holy Mass at 10am, followed by Holy Rosary, act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At 1pm, there will be Fatima talk & film, followed by enrolment & investiture of the Brown Scapular and Holy Hour. The event will conclude with benediction at 4pm. For enquiry, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 17th/18th May

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Theresa Lynch)

Tuesday 20th May

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St C

Wednesday 21st May

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St JF

Thursday 22nd May

10.00am First Communion Mass at St C

Friday 23rd May

9.30/10.30/11.00 am |First Communion Masses at St JF



Next Weekend 24th/25th May

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Stephen and Christopher O'Brien)

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

Collections:

Weeks 6th Apr - 4th May TOTAL £1,274.83

Priests Training Fund Collection £143.60

Parish Feast Days Celebrations

Our parish feast days are once again approaching and we will gather again to celebrate together. We will mark the feast of St John Fisher on Friday 27th June, 7pm at St John Fisher. We will gather for a social evening with our traditional strawberries and cream, with cheese and nibbles and a bottle or two of fizz. Please come and join in the celebration together. We are still just finalising the date and arrangements for a celebration of the feast of St Columba but will share the details as soon as possible.



A Prayer for Our New Pope



Faithful God,
You guide us on the path
of life
and your goodness is our
constant companion.

Be with our new
Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV,
in his service of the
Church.

Fill him with the power of your Spirit,
the peace of your presence
and the compassion of Christ.

May he walk with you,
in wisdom and humility,
and lead us, together with all God's people,
to embody your love for the world.

Amen.



Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Les Orritt, Joan Haigh, Norma Pritchard, M. Rivi, Loretta
McDonnell, Thomas Hopkins, Amy Murphy, Joseph
Cameron, Sharon Whitting, Rowan Sanderson, Karen Duffy,
James Murphy, Elizabeth Jones, Anne Horsley, John Dempsey.



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.