

## **Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE**

Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - Year C  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

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### **Challenging Times for Life**

As I write this newsletter the sad news that MPs have voted to support the assisted dying bill has come through. Earlier this week MPs also voted to change abortion legislation.

The very first thing to say in all of these issues is that they are very challenging and raise situations where we can, and should, feel strong compassion for individuals and specific cases. When faced with end of life issues for ourselves, for those we care for, and women considering abortion in very difficult situations, the highest possible compassion and care should always be the first response. Also those who have sought these changes are not necessarily terrible people, in fact, they will say they are equally guided by compassion and the desire to help people in extremely difficult situations. The bigger issue here though is in the implications of these decisions and the bigger questions about the vital protection and value we give to life.

Both of these votes seem to have been rushed through Parliament without the widest possible scrutiny and debate that these decisions demand. It is of note that significantly less MPs voted in favour as time passed and the wider implications of this bill was considered.

The importance for society of these votes has not been recognised. They really take us to those fundamental issues of what we consider to be human flourishing and what we truly value. The sanctity of life must always be cherished.

There is still further processes for these votes and of course it is still far from clear of how each of them can, and will, be implemented and actioned. In both I would fear that there will be unintentional outcomes that few would want to support. Let us continue to pray for all effected by these issues and indeed for our MPs and politician who must consider these issues with integrity and responsibility.



## **Presentation on Iona**

After recent retreat to Iona and a trip to Dublin, Fr Michael will share photographs and reflections about Iona, the legacy of St Columba, the Book of Kells and what you can experience on Iona today. This will be on Wednesday 2nd July at 7pm at St Columba's. Light refreshments will be served.

## **Charity Donations**

Recently we have been experiencing difficulties with the collection of donations to the charity shops. They have been unable to collect due to lack of volunteer drivers. While this is being sorted can we pause in the donations of clothes etc until we can be sure they can be collected. Donations to the food bank are not effected by this and can continue.

## **Proposed Parish Coach Trip to Llandudno**

We are considering running a summer coach trip to Llandudno this summer. The proposed date is Thursday 21st August and it would be a full day out leaving in the morning and returning in the evening. The cost would be £20. In order to proceed with a booking we need to gauge interest. Obviously plans for the summer can change but if you think you would be interested could you sign up in the lists at the back of both churches. If we get enough interest we will then book the coach and ask people to sign up - we can also open this to other churches nearby if we need to fill the coach.



## **Looking Ahead to Lourdes**

Last week Fr Michael met up with the young people preparing to travel to Lourdes as part of our Archdiocesan Pilgrimage. Five coaches of young people take part in the pilgrimage and the young people give of their time and energy to support the assisted pilgrims in various ways, and they take part in the official pilgrimage prayers of Lourdes alongside their own programme of social and spiritual events.

As always the young people will be willing to take petitions to Lourdes and details about this will be shared in the coming weeks.

# Masses & Services This Week

## Weekend 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> June

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Those who lost lives in World War II)

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

## Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June

9.15am Mass at St C (Robert Moran)

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St JF

## Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St C



## Next Weekend 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> June

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

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

**Confession** - available before and after Mass or by appointment

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## Collections:

Weeks 11th May - 8th June    TOTAL    £1,627.81

Priests Training Fund                      £142.99

World Communications                      £84.18

## Eucharistic Ministers and Care Homes

We have two care homes in our parish and we regularly receive requests for a priest or a minister to attend the homes to give residents Holy Communion. It would be good if we could set up a regular rota for when visits could be made. If any of our Eucharistic Ministers would be willing to help out with a rota on a even a monthly or fortnightly basis would you please let Fr Michael know.



## Children's Liturgy of the Word

The next date for Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass is

Sunday 13th July



## Parish Feast Days Celebrations

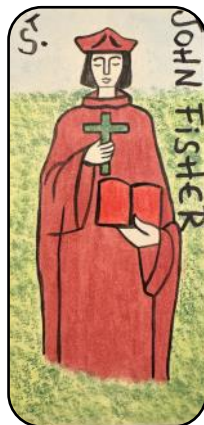
Our parish feast days are once again approaching and we will gather again to celebrate together.

We are changing the format of our celebration this year to try something a little different.

We will mark the feast days on Friday evenings starting with an evening prayer to our patron saints at 7pm then moving on to a social celebration afterwards.

We will mark the feast of St Columba on Friday 13th June at St Coumba and

St John Fisher on Friday 27th June, 7pm at St John Fisher.



Both evenings will start with a short evening prayer for each of our Saints and then we will have a social celebration. At St Columba there will be the usual sandwiches and cake, and maybe this year as we are gathering in the evening a bottle of wine or two may be opened! At St John Fisher we have our traditional strawberries and cream, with cheese and nibbles and a bottle or two of fizz.



Given that the celebrations are at different times to Mass they can be open to people who attend Mass at either of our two parish churches so feel free to come along to either or both, if you are able. If you are intending to come please let us know as then we can plan for catering purposes



### 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.