

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B
10th November 2024

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Reflections from Iona

As most of you know I was able to take a short retreat last week to the island of Iona in Scotland. This was where St Columba landed in his mission to bring Christianity into Scotland and northern England. The island is only small (3 miles long and 1.5 miles wide), about 170 people live there and the last ferry to the island is about 6pm so it is a quiet and remote place. I was blessed with reasonable weather for this time of year; although it was quite wet, windy and stormy one day (they cancelled most of the ferry crossings!). This allowed me the chance to explore the island; unlike on my previous visit which was for only a couple of hours. Right at the southern tip is the St Columba's Bay where it is thought that Columba landed. It is a rocky sheltered beach and was a great place just to sit and look at the sea view and listen to the waves crashing on the beach. Near the main village you find Iona Abbey, build on the site of St Columba's original church. Today this is the centre of prayer for the ecumenical Iona Community and I was able to join in morning and night prayers every day on the island. The retreat was a wonderful chance to take some quiet time in the home of St Columba, one of our parish patrons and I can assure I remembered the whole parish in prayer there.



Children's Liturgy of the Word and Children's Activities

We welcome our children and their families today and the future dates for Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass are
8th December



We are also planning a Children and Family Advent and Christmas Craft afternoon on Sunday 15th December 3pm - 5pm with crafts and a Christingle Service



Christmas Quiz and Bingo!

The return of our ever popular quiz night and this time with added Bingo! Festive quiz and prizes to be won. Light refreshments will be provided but if you wish you can bring your own drinks along.
Thursday 5th December 7pm at St Columba

Advent Service of Light

On Wednesday 11th December we will hold an Advent prayer service at St John Fisher at 7pm. It is an opportunity to enter into the longing of Advent. We will have time together waiting in darkness and lighting candles, with prayers, readings and reflections.

Advent is a time of preparation, so this is an opportunity to take time to prepare in prayer and spirit for the coming joy at Christmas. Please come along if you are able.



Supply Priests

Thankyou to Fr David Gamble and Bishop John Rawsthorne who celebrated our Masses the last two weekends.



Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 9th/10th November

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Alf and Anita Moorcroft)

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

Tuesday 12th November

9.15am Mass at St C (Margaret Cartwright)

Wednesday 13th November

9.15am Mass at St JF (Maureen Valle)

Thursday 14th November

9.15am Eucharistic Service at St C (Special Intention)

Next Weekend 16th/17th November

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Stella Jackson)

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

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

Collections: Weeks 9th Sept - 13th Oct TOTAL £1,854.57
CAFOD - £378.57

Jim Short

Jim is known to many of us, especially at St Columba's church, for his hard work and dedication to so many aspects of our parish life. Like many of us Jim is getting a little older, and so now is stepping away from just some of his tasks. He has already helped train up some new sacristans, and over the next few weeks will be enjoying a little more time to relax. He will continue organising the bonus ball collections and co-ordinating our counting and banking

I am delighted to share great news that Jim has also been awarded a Benemerenti medal from Pope Francis, in recognition of his services to the Church. This will be presented to Jim on the Feast of Christ the King at the 11am Mass on Sunday 24th November.

It is good that his work has been recognised in such a manner and also to mark this time of partial retirement - Jim will of course remain fully involved in the life of our parish!

November Prayers for the Dead and Our Books of Remembrance

November is a traditional time when we pray for the dead. We will have various opportunities to remember and pray for lost love ones. The memory lanterns are now in both our churches alongside the traditional pious lists. Please feel free to add to these during the month.



Our Remembrance books are in both churches recording the names of family and friends from the parish who have died. If you wish to have names added to the book please fill in one of the forms available in both churches. The books are updated on a regular basis.

Huyton Family of Parishes

For the last few months we have been meeting, exploring and planning for the future as a Family of Parishes in Huyton, Stockbridge Village and Knowsley Village. As part of this, the priests of the areas recently spent a day to consider how we can work together as priests to support and care for each other, as we look to our future plans. We really enjoyed our day together and valued the time spent in friendship, so we are planning to meet regularly for times of prayer and reflection, and also gather together for a meal from time to time. We hope that this will strengthen and support us as a team of priests, whatever the plans we adopt as a Family of Parishes.



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, Marie Shepherd.

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.