



The Bulletin

The Memberships' Mail-Shot

SUPREME KNIGHT

Greetings Brothers and families of the Knights of St Columba,

Here we are at the end of 2020, a year of turmoil and pandemic. Since the beginning of 2020 we have all been in some form of lockdown or shielding. I am sure you like me will be delighted to read of the possibility of a vaccine in 2021.

But while we look forward to that vaccine we are approaching that unforgettable time of the year---Christmas, The Birth of our Saviour.

From all our time we acknowledge this as the prime time in the calendar of our religion. The Birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race from sin.

Regardless of where you are on earth, be it in the frozen northern hemisphere or in the southern hemisphere enjoying sunshine we all celebrate Christmas Day--25th December.

The 4 Jurisdictions have seen fit to allow us to celebrate at least 3-4 days over Christmas, to also allow us to visit our families (with clear restrictions) but at least we will be able to attend Mass on Christmas Day, which is at the heart and soul of our religion. While we enjoy and celebrate the Birth of Jesus we all must take care not to either spread the virus but also not to put ourselves in the way of harming ourselves and others.

Regions

Regional Directors Elections have now been completed. They will take up office after Supreme Council 2021. Attached to this Bulletin are the names of each of these Regional Directors for each Region. I had the privilege of inviting them to attend part of the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday 5th December. This was to give them the training for when they take office.

As each of the Regional Directors have more than one Province to administer, PGK's should invite them to their meetings and to also to send them minutes of the meeting so they will become conversant with each of the strength's and weakness of them. They can then assist the PGK then also give any assistance they can offer. This is a new way forward for the Order.

Pauline and I wish you all a Holy and Happy Christmas 2020, but also a safe and healthy New Year 2021.

Bertie

GOVERNANCE

Dear Brothers,

It is a principle of KSC democracy that any voting for PGK, GK or associated Officers must be by secret ballot.

To this end, the Supreme Knight and Board of Directors at their Meeting on Saturday 5th December, have ruled that any required vote must be deferred until physical meetings can again take place, and ballots be conducted in a traditional manner.

Where there is more than one nomination for any post, the present incumbent must retain their office until their successor can be chosen.

Where there is a single uncontested nomination, the continuation or transition may be effected as normal. This must be communicated in the first instance to PGK's who will inform Supreme Knight via Head Office.

The installation of any Officers and GKs can be carried out by PGK's on Zoom. Full Knighthood and initiations can take place via video conference, but when restrictions are lifted full Knighthood ceremonies will take place during Holy Mass as per normal.

Bertie M Grogan
Supreme Knight.

SPIRITUALITY & WELFARE

"May Christ's peace and hope be with your family now and in the days ahead may His love warm your hearts may He give you a spirit of wisdom."

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us, we may be tempted to take our eye off the real meaning of Christmas, God gave us the greatest gift of all the saviour of the world, his Son Jesus Christ, if we have faith in him, he gives us hope.

The greatest gift we can give our family and friends this year, is to keep ourselves as safe as possible, not just for our sake but for our loved ones, by keeping ourselves safe we keep them safe. A gift that has no monetary value to give our friends and those living on their own is our time, a phone call just for a chat.

For those suffering from depression and anxiety, Christmas seems to make people feel even more alone, feeling low because they feel forgotten and no worth bothering with, we can do something about that, with a simple phone call, having a chat them, giving them friendship that we as an Order value in the spirit of Charity (our prayers) of Unity (all pulling together in the same direction for the good of all) in Fraternity (showing our love for one another as God loves us). Let us all make a special effort not leave nobody out, by contacting our Brothers, our Widows and our Clergy, letting them know they are you are thinking of them care about them.

Anne and myself wish you all health, every happiness and peace this Christmas and always.

'Keep Christ in Christmas'

"Lend A Helping Hand During Lockdown"

This is a joint initiative between the KSC and SPUC that came from a Brother in Province 30, if you need someone to talk to, got a problem you want to talk about call us don't just bottle it up.

SPUC will be dealing with Parishes and KSC welfare will deal with Brothers of the Order, their families, and widows, what ever is said we will listen and endeavour to help, all call are treated in the strictest confidence

Contact us today: 0141 280 8738

Mass for Deceased members of the KSC family. In view of difficulties of many councils not being able to arrange a mass this year it was decided to put on a mass that would be streamed around the UK, my grateful thank go to our Order Spiritual Advisor Most Rev Philip Tartaglia PhB STD, Archbishop of Glasgow for saying the Mass for us. And thank you to all who joined us in prayer.

Keeping our Church's safe: My thanks go to all those Brothers who have been assisting our clergy to keep our churches safe, by stewarding at private prayer and for masses, ensuring everyone uses the Alcohol Hand Sanitiser when entering and leaving the church their hands and wears a mask in the church and cleaning and sanitising the benches after the service.

Some of the numbers given to churches do seem a little off kilter when a cathedral that can hold over 1,000 people is allowed 30 or 50 people, but it is what it is and we must adhere to the restrictions laid down, the problem come when we reach the number given, and we face the unpleasant task of turning people away from the church. But if we must turn people way we are doing it to safeguard and ensuring the safety of those who are attending Mass, Our Priests who may get fined for over crowding and our churches could be shut down again.

May God Bless you Brothers and Keep you and your families safe and well throughout 2021

MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

Brothers, we've now received the good news from the (various) governments that we will be able to spend Christmas with members of other families.

Enjoying time with our extended families at Christmas is of course one of the reasons that so many of us look forward to this time of year.

For those of us fortunate enough to be able to do so, it is a wonderful thing. Of course, that extended family can relate to ourselves as the brotherhood of the Order of the Knights of St Columba.

During this festive period and with the opportunity to meet again with members of our extended families perhaps we'll have that little bit of extra time to encourage that uncle, brother, cousin to join us in our mission into our second century.

We all know how tough it is to recruit under these lockdown restrictions, however there are methods we can use and unforeseen opportunities that arise.

A few Provinces have found it useful that when Brothers are stewarding at Masses they take the opportunity to mention to the other gentlemen stewards about the work we do as Knights of St Columba.

This is bringing in some new Brothers into the Order. Fantastic work.

Many of you are now requesting facemasks. These will be in HO in the next week. These are reusable and cost £5. Available in black. We can wear them whenever we are able to attend Mass in our own Parishes to highlight the fact of who we are.



Looking towards next year, we will be moving forward with more Membership Seminars. It is planned for these to be more regional in nature and hopefully (dependant upon circumstances) be an occasion where we can actually meet up together. Details, when finalised, to follow.

Keep safe Brothers.

If you would like to become a member of the Membership Team ,please contact us on membership@ksc.org.uk

'Mankind is a great, an immense family.... This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas'

**Bro Brian Henry
Director
Membership & Development.**

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

Dear Brothers,

Columba Magazine

We had a slight hiatus with the December Edition of Columba Magazine due to our printers having to close their offices in November because of COVID restrictions. Rest assured that the Winter 2020-2021 Edition of Columba will be with you all shortly.

We are due to start working on your next edition of Columba Magazine. This will be out to you all in early March.

If you have any articles, news stories, obituaries that you would like added **please have these to us at columba.magazine@ksc.org.uk by February 5th 2021. Thank you.**

eColumba

With the advent of the new vaccine on the horizon we anticipate that Councils and Provinces will now start booking their 2021 events and socials soon.

The should be sent to us at eColumba so that we can advertise these for you. If you have anything already booked then please get them to us as soon as you can so that they can appear in eColumba.

Remember Brothers, this is not an internal KSC Newsletter. This should go to your local Parish Office for them to display. Now that Churches in lots of areas are reopening Churches might be more amenable to us displaying our events!

Please send us anything you want advertised for the December Edition by Friday 22nd January 2021.

National Website

In late November it was noticed that the online Forms section of the website had run into an unprecedented problem.

Quite a bit of time was spent investigating this only to find that the problem was not with the website itself but a problem with Internet Browsers. In their infinite wisdom all Internet Providers decided to add an extra layer of security to the browser software. This has meant that we now need a new strategy for our Forms.

As such we will be spending the next 3 months building a new Forms system on the website so that Forms can be processed online. Please bear with us as we get this new system up and running.

We are also looking at a refresh of the current website. This will be built in the background and only released once it is completed. Please do keep an eye out for this happening.

Zoom!

Councils and Provinces are still meeting using Zoom. However it has been noted that not all Provinces and Councils are as yet using this.

If your Council has not been offered this facility then please contact your PGK and ask why this is not happening.

Every Province and Council was offered Zoom training in October 2020. If you have not had Zoom Training, or if you want to know what this is all about, please do email us at media@ksc.org.uk and we can arrange a training seminar for you.

We are using Zoom Brothers as it allows all of our Brothers, including those that do not have internet facilities, to meet again every month. This facility has been provided free to all Provinces and Councils. Please do make use of it. Those Councils and Provinces that have been using it have expressed their joy at being able to meet again.

May we take this opportunity to wish both our Brothers, Wives and families, our Clergy, Widows and friends a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year from all the Media Committee.

Sincerely & Fraternaly
Sean Smith, Supreme Director of Media

ACTION

As we near the end of this uncertain year we look forward to the possibility of a vaccine that will allow us all to get back to doing the work we love and do best. On behalf of the Apostolate committee I would like to take this opportunity in wishing you all a very merry and Holy Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Once again we have had a busy month and I would like to thank all our speakers for talking so eloquently and giving up their time to talk to us. I would also like to thank the Brothers who took the time to join us we hope that you enjoyed them.

Looking towards Christmas already we have our usual campaigns we would ask you to support.

Keep Christ in Christmas posters we will look to do what we did with the Easter poster get it sent out in a pdf file and people should be able to print them off

Keep Christ in Christmas stickers THERE ARE A NUMBER OF STICKERS LEFT IN Head office if you require anymore contact head office

Reverse Advent calendar probably now more than ever is the time we should be really pushing this as the need will be greater during this pandemic.

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING FROM OUR CRIB



We are launching a new initiative for December what we are asking is for at least 23 Brothers or councils to live stream on facebook their nativity scene. We would like you to do a short reading and maybe if you feel or allowed to sing a carol if you cannot sing maybe play a recording we already have 6 days covered please let me know which day you would like to take. Also it doesn't matter if we have more than one person sharing the more the better

Catholic Social teachings

Each month we try and bring something relevant to the period
What is counted loss in the eyes of the world is, for us, salvation. May we learn from the Lord, who saved us by emptying himself (cf. Phil 2:7) and becoming other: from being God, he became man; from spirit, he became flesh; from a king, he became a slave. He asks us to do the same, to humble ourselves, to "become other" in order to reach out to others. The closer we become to the Lord Jesus, the more we will be open and "universal", since we will feel responsible for others. And others will become the means of our own salvation: all others, every human person, whatever his or her history and beliefs. Beginning with the poor, who are those most like Christ."

Congratulations to all our Grand Draw winners all PGK,S should have had a copy of the winners.

Next year's tickets should be with you shortly. Thanks to everyone who helped to sell or bought tickets we look forward to your support again next year

As we all know this has been a very strange year but in the midst of this period we have had a very significant event. Our Ecclesiastical Advisor and a very important and active member of the Apostolate committee Archbishop Malcolm Mc Mahon has retired from the post. I know that we on the Apostolate committee cannot thank him enough for all he has done for us over the years. It has been my privilege and honour to have served with him over the last fifteen years. I hope I have the honour of classing him as a wonderful friend as well as brother. There is so much I could say about all the years but we as a committee would just like to thank him for all his wonderful help support and guidance and especially the lunches from Bishops House in Nottingham to Archbishops House in Liverpool Brother George Smith will miss his wine!!!! We will miss you in this role but we know you will be kept busy in Liverpool please stay safe and God Bless

Harry Welsh
Supreme Director for Action and Social

OBITUARIES

Form SW3 received at Head Office In November & December 2020

Co.	Prov	Name	Date of Death	Co.	Prov	Name	Date of Death
184	18	John Corbett	31/10/2020	520	16	Hugh Brannigan	10/09/2020
243	30	Dennis Duncan	27/10/2020	128	12	Peter Marshall	16/08/2020
188	21	Eric Mullen	08/11/2020	560	29	William Kinsella	03/11/2020
223	18	John Carter	12/11/2020	110	21	Alfred Duffield	29/10/2020
139	14	Peter Chick	21/10/2020	128	12	Godwin Opara	26/08/2020
51	2	Francis Chapman	15/10/2020	551	34	Terence Nagle	11/11/2020
4	1	Francis Griffin	31/05/2020	51	2	Edward Welch	21/11/2020
51	2	James McAllister	12/10/2020	150	1	Richard Fullerton	18/11/2020
396	1	Frank Sweeney	16/10/2020	163	30	John Collins	14/11/2020
4	1	James Richmond	29/08/2020	440	29	Victor Evans	13/11/2020
151	12	Alan Boxall	12/11/2020				

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD,
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM,
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE, AMEN

YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

READ AND ACTION THIS IMPORTANT BULLETIN.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE OFFICER HANDLING YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE MATTERS IN YOUR PROVINCE / COUNCIL

Worthy Brothers, I hope and pray that you all keeping safe and well. Different parts of the Country have been going through different stages of the Lockdown and some will emerge in different categorisations as well. But the one constant Covid-19 permitting is that our Young People have been attending in-class Schooling except where whole cohort bubbles are self-isolating or in some instances whole Schools are temporarily closed, in both instances virtual Schooling is taking place thank God for our Young Peoples education. Kindly keep in touch with your Primary/ Secondary School or College contacts. God Bless you all.

Youth Bulletin communication was sent out in November by Head Office via email with various attachments. **Posters/Rules Details of our KSC Youth competitions. Apologies Brothers but this have been updated and will be sent again.** See below at the date changes. Many of the items were for dates to keep in mind and to plan for the immediate to near future. Items sent that needed action like:

The CYMfed Funday that took place Friday 20th November with Cardinal Nichols leading the opening Prayers? Did you disseminate this to your Schools? My local Primary Head Teacher promised allowed our Early Years to join in.

The Columban Missionaries Fathers Schools Media Competition 'LET'S CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM' Original writing OR Original image on the subject matter for our Young People of 14yrs-18yrs inc to submit.

The Childrens Liturgy Resource Links. This was sourced as many of us noticed that no special mass was being put on for our children during the previous Lockdown and even during the reduced Mass attendance that took place after. Hopefully we managed to disseminate this to our Friends and family and even to our catechists and Parish Priest to place on the website especially if they didn't have anything in place for Children's Liturgy.

ALL THE ABOVE ITEMS WERE ALSO PLACED ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE.

Keep it up Brothers in Faith, Family and Fraternity.

Re: KSC Youth Competitions

Extended 2019/2020 x 3 competitions all closed 30th October 2020 - Easter Scene Painting, Prayer and Essay Competitions. Adjudication results will be forwarded to the Order in the week. Good Luck to all.

Rule sheets dates have been updated and will be resent to you and changed on the KSC Website for download. See below. Any problem, then contact me please?

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS 2020/2021 - ENGLAND, WALES AND SCOTLAND

Date Winning Provincial Entries to Arrive at Head Office.

Nativity Scene Painting: Primary Grades
4 to 7 years of age. 5th February 2021

Nativity Scene Painting: Primary Grades
7 to 11 years of age. 5th February 2021

Easter Scene Painting: Primary Grades
7 to 11 years of age. 7th May 2021

Easter Scene Painting: Secondary Grades
11 to 14 years of age. 7th May 2021

Easter Scene Painting: Senior Grades
14 to 18 years of age. 7th May 2021
Prayer Composition: Primary Grades
7 to 11 years of age. 28th May 2021*

Prayer Composition: Secondary Grades
11 to 14 years of age. 28th May 2021*

Prayer Composition: Senior Grades
14 to 18 years of age. 28th May 2021*

Essay Writing: Secondary Grades
11 to 14 years of age. 28th May 2021*

Essay Writing: Senior Grades
14 to 18 years of age. 28th May 2021*

***As suggested in previous Bulletins the Closing Dates of the Prayer/ Essay Competitions have been brought forward to allow presentation to be made to winners before the end of School year. It must be noted that Primary yr6/yr7 pupils leave for Secondary School and Secondary School yr11,yr12,yr13/S5,S6 may leave after taking their GCSE for work, College or after A' Levels leave for University. This way at least the Presentation can be made before they depart to work or for further education.**

My comments for December 2020 follows: Can I respectfully ask you to action the below and give me a feedback? Yes, I appreciate some of the below are Covid-19 permitting.

1. With permission can we ask the Parish Priest to present the Parish winners at Mass in front of the Congregation?
2. Remember Brothers, not all our young people attend Catholic school and should not be denied participation, there promote these items in the parish.
3. Can we announce these competitions from the Lectern at Masses once a year minimum, subject to the support of the Parish Priest? If agreed, we would need to have details to hand out.
4. Can we obtain permission from the Parish Priest/Religious/Catechists to introduce these competitions to our young people during their Holy Communion Course?
5. Can we obtain permission from the Parish Priest/Religious/Catechists to introduce these competitions to our young people during their Confirmation Course?
6. Can we scan our winners 1-3, 1-4 or Both year/age group winners entries at Council Level, scan by Council at Provincial Level scan by Provinces back to the Province of Councils whether Paintings, Essay or Prayer entries to all the Participating bodies i.e. Schools, Youth Clubs, Parish Priests etc? Do not display the names of the winners rather use e.g. First Place, Second Place, Third Place and so on....

Faith – Let us keep our Young People involved in all our faith inspired youth competitions and seminars. **Family** – Involve your children/grandchildren, extended family and friends in our youth comps.

Fraternity – Let us be true to each other and show our fraternal love for one another in helping each other in carrying out our Youth work.

May God bless you and keep you safe as we pray for better times. Please stay safe. Fraternally, Michael Akinrele-Supreme Director for Youth and Young People.