



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 2022

Please note:

This correspondence must be delivered at EVERY COUNCIL MEETING.

This correspondence can be divided and given to relevant Officers in the Council. If the Officer role is vacant then the Grand Knight will read out that part of this correspondence.



INDEX

CORRESPONDENCE FROM:	PAGE NO
The Supreme Knight	3 – 4*
Membership & Development	5 – 6*
Action & Social	7 – 8*
Spirituality & Welfare	9 – 11*
Youth & Young People	12 – 15*
Media	16 – 18*



Supreme Knight's Bulletin July 2022



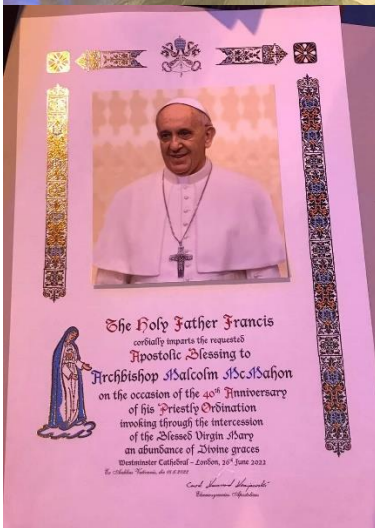
In June the Order travelled to Lourdes for our National pilgrimage. We arrived at Manchester airport from various parts of the UK. Fr. Emmet O'Dowd chaplain to council 88 Aberdeen agreed to join us as our Spiritual Advisor. It was an early start for us all, but we arrived safely in Lourdes at about 3.30pm. Our accommodation at the Hotel Padoue just a short walk from the Grotto. After dinner we made our way down to the Grotto for the torchlight procession where our banner representing our Order was at the front, a great honour. There are so many highlights that we have of the trip I would need at least another three pages to do the trip justice watch out for autumn Columba magazine. May I say a huge thank you to Fr. Emmet who made the spiritual part of our journey so inspirational (and the social side too). Thanks to Northern Star Travel and Head Office for all their hard work in arranging a wonderful trip.

I would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to our Ecclesiastical Advisor Bishop Tom Neylon on his fortieth anniversary to the Priesthood on the 31st of May he was ordained by St. John Paul II at Heaton park Manchester. I am sure a wonderful honour for him, at the recent Board meeting I gave Bishop Tom a card and gift on behalf of the Order.

After the Board meeting I invited the Board to remain in Liverpool to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of a past Ecclesiastical Advisor Archbishop Malcolm Mc Mahon OP.

He said the Mass at 11am in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Liverpool and Bishop Tom was one of many clergy to celebrate with him. It was a great honour for us to be present and his reaction to seeing his Brother Knights was a Joy to behold. Also joining us was the President of I.A.C.K. Brother Charlie McCluskey and his wife Sandra. Brother Charlie made a presentation to his Grace on behalf of I.A.C.K. I also made a presentation of a Papal Blessing and a card on behalf of the order.

Faith, Family, Fraternity



May St. Columba Protect you and keep you safe.

Henry Welsh

Supreme Knight.

Faith, Family, Fraternity



Membership & Development

Dear Brothers,

I hope you are all keeping well.

As we enter July, we have the most fantastic opportunity to be 'out there' and show the public what we are all about. The Mercy Bus Tour is kicking off 25-30 July in Middlesbrough, Leeds (coinciding with the Youth Seminar at Hindsley Hall), Birmingham, Wrexham and Liverpool. It is going to be a fabulous opportunity for us to show ourselves off, be highly visible and most importantly, we are bringing Jesus Christ to each and every city on the tour. No other Catholic organisation is doing anything like this, WE are so let's make it count. I look forward to seeing as many Brothers as possible in those areas. The sun *will* be shining, the fraternity and unity will be fierce and the faith will be positively tangible, for that you can assured!



We have Archbishops, Bishops, Priests and Deacons joining us. It is going to be fabulous!

Faith, Family, Fraternity



Membership & Development

Then shortly after, in early September, we have the March for Life in Central London. This is a chance for our Southern Brothers to emulate their Northern Brothers and take centre stage. This again is a wonderful chance for us to be seen in public and this time, taking on Catholic Social Teaching to the streets and defend those less vulnerable than ourselves from attack. We won't make a difference sitting in our front rooms or our Chambers. We need to get out in public once more.

Both of these events are of course led by Action. We hear time and time again that Action is the engine room of the Order, 100% it is. This is what makes men want to join us. We will reap the rewards of both these events by recruiting new men to push us all on in the autumn and beyond. Without new members, who is going to take our places in the years to come? We must think about this now before it is too late.

With all this in mind, order your Parish Packs and recruitment material from HO without delay, it is all there for you, for free. Good luck!

~~~~~  
Please do let me know any thoughts, ideas, and suggestions  
Best of luck in your efforts to recruit and retain  
[membership@ksc.org.uk](mailto:membership@ksc.org.uk)

Fraternal wishes,

**Danny Ó hEarchaí**  
**Supreme Director for Membership & Development**

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



## Action & Social

I want to start by saying a big THANK YOU to Bro Director Sean Smith who stood in for me on 27th May to do a presentation to the Seminarians at St Marys Oscott College in Birmingham (I was called away to a work event in Dublin). He spent time formatting the presentation I sent, and then travelled an approx. 400 mile round trip from his home in Poole, Dorset. An outstanding effort and I am so grateful to have a Media Director, Knight and friend like that. In the Middle of July Bro Sean will be celebrating his 50th Birthday and I am sure we all wish him a very happy birthday.



**National action Survey** - By now you should have seen the new survey form. Please get your Action Officer or GK to complete and return to me by 31st July. And as for the following years format we may change it to a bid style.... Let's get planning and let's get active!

**Brecbannoch Pilgrimage** - Congratulations to all those that took part in the inaugural Brecbannoch Pilgrimage from 11-13th June 2022. The Brecbannoch is a 50-mile pilgrimage undertaken on foot from Oban to Iona, with the special purpose of praying for the renewal of the faith in Scotland. Along the way, they carried the relics of St Columba, St Andrew and St Margaret. The relics of St Columba returned to Iona for the first time since the reformation. Pictured below you can see the relics being taken into the chapel by Fathers O'Donnell and Campbell. Since his death in 574 AD, pilgrims have flocked to Iona to ask for St Columba's Intercession. Brecbannoch is translated as 'pointy thing' referring to the actual relic box.



*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



## Action & Social

**200 club** – The July winners are:

1. No. 40 Danny O'hEarchai
2. No. 17 Deborah Ferris
3. No. 2 Damian Reilly
4. No. 93 Council 393

**National Action Project** – We have about 2 months left so please raise and send funds for The John Foster Memorial Home.

**JULY: - Divine Mercy Bus** - 25 July –30th July, it will travel the country with 2 Priests on board to hear confessions at the various stops (Newcastle, Salford, Leeds, Birmingham, Wrexham, Liverpool), and will finish with Mass at the Hope University Chapel at 2pm.

**SEPTEMBER - March for Life** - Saturday 3rd September 2022 – London. Please let us know if you wish to go to this pro-life event and we can plan coaches.

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER - St Bernadette UK Relic tour** - I have sent all the dates out on the Action Facebook page, but I will ask head Office to send them out by email. Please contact your local diocese ASAP to offer your Councils services.

Brother Stephen Ferris

Supreme Director for Action and Social - [Apostolates@ksc.org.uk](mailto:Apostolates@ksc.org.uk)

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*





## Spirituality & Welfare

Important:

**SW4a** Special needs allowance, As the cost of living rises, many brothers may be faced with difficult decisions, do they eat or do they heat their home, finances can stretch only so far, paying dues to the Knights of St Columba would not even come into their thinking or consideration.

If it is felt a brother legitimately, cannot afford to pay his dues, it is not a reason to leave the Order, we have the facility in place to help, the council should speak to the brother, and reassure him and tell him not to worry about his dues and claim special needs for him.

**No Brother should leave the Order because he genuinely is unable to pay his dues.**

**Vocations:** We each have a calling in life and we as the lay apostolate rely on other people to answer the calling to particular vocations, we rely on men coming forward to join the priesthood, to keep our churches open, so we can hear Mass in our local church, with clergy on hand to administer to our needs, such as baptisms, weddings, ministering to the sick and for funerals.

Some Catholics have to travel up to 20 miles to attend the church, and some of them are covered by another parish

In the bigger cities we are fortunate to have churches near our home, something I have never appreciated how lucky I am until now, if I was to draw a 5-mile radius from my home I have 18 catholic churches with only 2 of those served from a neighbouring parish.

Even in those parishes there is a worry, many of those parishes are served by clergy who are in their late 60 and 70's therefore looking to retire soon, many of the others are blessed to have priests from overseas, with Seminary's closing due to a decline in numbers, my local seminary, St Johns Womersh, closed with the following statement being published by the diocese.

“Following extensive consideration and discernment, especially over the past year, including communication with the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome, the Trustees have regretfully come to the decision that St John's Seminary cannot continue in its present form. **The current and projected number of seminarians is too small** to sustain a healthy formation community, and the building and staffing costs have simply become prohibitive”. (16<sup>th</sup> October 2020).

What can we do as Knights of St Columba?

**Pray**

For all who have heard God's invitation to ordained ministry and religious life, especially those who are currently in formation. Please also pray for all those who are deciding whether God is calling them, and for those who have yet to recognise His call, that the Lord will make his will clearly known

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



## Spirituality & Welfare

The Southwark Diocese has produced a Prayer card for Vocations

### Prayer for Vocations:

**Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests;**

**Help them to be strong in their vocation and become instruments of your love and grace. Send your Holy Spirit to give courage and guidance to all those you are calling to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life in our Archdiocese.**

**May those called hear your voice and respond wholeheartedly to become the person you created them to be. Heavenly Father, form us all in the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd, so that we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully.**

**We ask this through Christ Your Son, the Eternal High Priest, Amen.**

[www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm)

### **Encourage**

Please encourage those considering consecrated life, that their love of Our Lord may grow and desire to serve him increase to the point of saying 'yes' to ordination or profession.

### **Donate**

Diocese invests approximately £30,000 per annum for each seminarian for a period of six years. (£180,000) Your council or group of councils could think about adopting a seminarian, helping support him financially through his training.

Let us do something now, don't just sit back do nothing and then complain when our parish closes because they do not have enough priests to cover the parish.

**Memorial Mass Liverpool:** the date is 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 the time is 15:00, the intention is for 'The Deceased members of the Knights of St Columba family'. The Order is a family so it is only fitting that we remember not only our brothers but family members who have been called from this life.

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



# Spirituality & Welfare

## *Obituaries*

|            |                      |     |    |
|------------|----------------------|-----|----|
| 02/05/2022 | Joseph Perera        | 118 | 12 |
|            | George Gibbons-Baily | 146 | 2  |
| 28/05/2022 | Patrick F. Hinchion  | 472 | 12 |
| 16/05/2022 | Peter Kirkbride      | 549 | 4  |
| 19/06/2022 | Tom Knight           | 246 | 16 |
| 11/05/2022 | Mavis Bell           | 232 | 14 |
|            |                      |     |    |

### **Benefits:**

In last month's bulletin I informed about getting help with debt, and money management advice

Sean Mulligan

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



# Youth & Young People

READ AND ACTION THIS IMPORTANT BULLETIN.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PROVINCIAL & COUNCIL YOUTH OFFICERS

**Our Youth are our Today and our tomorrow; as such, we must nurture them along their faith journey.**

Brothers, our Competition cycle has finished for 2022 and we need to acknowledge that we have been successful. We can be even more successful by having more Provinces and Councils taking part. That said, let us now commence a period of celebration of the Young People who have taken part as winners of the Council level, Provincial level and the Supreme Level include those who have received Participation Awards/Certificates.

- Celebrate them PLEASE at each of their Parishes.
- Have them announced at each Mass they attend, have them mentioned in the Newsletter.
- Let the Dean of your Deanery know, inform the Archbishop/Bishop and his Youth Chaplain/Director.

**Are there any feedback from your Brothers, Schools, Parish Groups and other organisations? What feedback have you had Brothers? Please give any feedback from your area of the Country by email to: [headoffice@ksc.org.uk](mailto:headoffice@ksc.org.uk) and [youth@ksc.org.uk](mailto:youth@ksc.org.uk)**

Facebook- KSC Youth and Young People

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/617421102214099>

Brothers, join the Facebook page for Youth and Young People and see other resources that you can promote to your Parish, your Council, your Provincial Facebook pages OR even forward to your Schools and Parish Groups.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR 2022 – HINSLEY HALL, LEEDS

**2022-Theme: Being Your Brother's Keeper?**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 29<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 and passed as part of Supreme Report. Deposit has been made to Hinsley Hall.**

We expect to accommodate twenty-five young people plus speakers and organisers over the period midday to midday **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 29<sup>nd</sup> July 2022. We will also be visiting the Mercy Bus Tour with the Young People when it arrives in Leeds.**

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



## Youth & Young People

Poster with QR Code already sent out. Some applications already received.

**Note: Council 977 Gravesend's PP and Chaplain is already committed to sponsoring 2 Young People. NOTE. SPEAK TO YOUR PP or Get ready to sponsor Young People from your Secondary School or your Local Parishes and most importantly send your Own Knights Children. 2019's Seminar had 6 of our own Brother Knights Young People and a Young Knight from Province 39 Jersey.**

### Re: KSC Youth Competitions

#### **NATIONAL COMPETITIONS 2022 - ENGLAND, WALES AND SCOTLAND**

**Prayer and Essay Certificates** are ready to send out this week from Head Office. Winners own Trophy's will also come out this week. **Please present these as soon as possible and celebrate these young talented young people at their Schools and then celebrate them again at their Local Parish by asking the Parish Priest to call them out or ask him to make the Presentation to our Young People. A fantastic opportunity for the Council to gain visibility for recruitment and also to promote the Youth Competitions.**

#### **NATIONAL COMPETITIONS 2022 - 2023 ENGLAND, WALES AND SCOTLAND**

The Competition List will come out by beginning of July 2022. The Rule Sheet, Posters will come out by July 2022 ending.

**NB:** God Bless you all for all that you do.

#### Things to do

- Can you ask your Primary/Secondary School, College or University Catholic Chaplaincy if you could come in and introduce the Knights of St Columba to them in 3-5mins?
- Can you ask the Parish Priest if you can speak about Youth at all your weekend Masses given 3-5mins at each one of your Parishes?
- Can you ask your Parish Priest if you can speak to the Holy Communion Children and Confirmation Young People given 3-5mins during their Programme about our commitment to Youth and Our Youth Programmes and the KSC?
- Can you organise a Fun day in your Parish with refreshment for Youth and Young People?
- Can you organise a Spiritual Topical (e.g. **Laudato Si, Catholic Social Teaching. 2 examples only**) day with Benediction at the end with your Parish Priest or his Curate for Young People 16yrs-upwards with refreshments?

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



## Youth & Young People

Some of the above can then be repeated twice a year or annually as permitted. Please give us a feedback for every event you manage. **Also, remember safeguarding in all that you do with and around Young People.**

- **Have you thought about inviting your Overall Winners and their Parents to your Council OR Provincial Dinner Dance? Just imagine what that will do for the image of our Order. I know of one Province that is doing this? Anymore? Let us know and let's promote this when it happens.**

Let us know of any help you need regarding promotion into your Schools, Parishes, and Church Groups? Let us know of any ideas that you have that will make all our work better please? I want to thank you all on behalf of the Youth and Young People Committee and myself.

### **Things to come.**

KSC Young People Award

KSC Speech Writing and Reading Competition

Youth and Young People Zoom Virtual Seminar-Officers and Council Brothers –September 2022  
Date and Time TBC

**March for Life** – 3<sup>RD</sup> September 2022, Mass: 11am St George's Cathedral Southwark,

The Emmanuel Centre Marsham St, SW1P 3DW 10.30am - 1.30pm

The March from the Emmanuel Centre - Ends at Parliament Square 4.30pm

Many a Young Person attends this event and we should do everything possible to promote this on our Youth Social Media pages and within our Schools and Parishes.

**Madonna Oakes Trophy – Latest Submission Date: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
**Awarded at Supreme Council to the Province or Council who have gone over and above in their work for our Youth.** Applications to arrive at Head Office no later than **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022** addressed to the Director for Youth and Young People... This should detail all your work with Youth and Young People. **See the Madonna Oakes Flyer due out again.**

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



## Youth & Young People

**My comments for July 2022 follows:** Promote the Residential Youth Seminar at Hinsley Hall, Leeds taking Place Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Celebrate the Young People who have been successful in your Council, Provincial and the Supreme Level Competitions. By doing so you gain the visibility that you're Council/Province so badly needs in the Parish during Mass and after. It gains the visibility the Council/Province needs in the schools and Colleges.

Wishing each Young Person, The Councils and each Province the very best.

The Youth and Young People Supreme Committee wish you and your families well in Faith, Family and Fraternity.

Fraternally, Michael Akinrele-Supreme Director for Youth and Young People.

**Note: As with all the Supreme Directors Report in this Head Office Bulletin. Can I respectfully remind each Provincial and Council Officer that they are required to include a precis/summary of the HO Bulletin in their written Provincial and Council reports, in order to bring it to the attention of the Brothers when emailed in the Provincial and Council Newsletter and Minutes. At the very least he should read it out in the Council meeting.**

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



## Media

Dear Brothers,

**It is with regret that we notify you all of the passing to his eternal rest of Brother Tom Knight. Brother Tom was laid to rest on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 after a short illness. Tom was the Order's National Press Officer for many years and also, for a shorter time, the Editor of Columba Magazine. His skills as editor, his work ethic and his friendship will be very missed by all in the Committee and indeed the Order. Past Supreme Knight Brother Charlie McCluskey passed on the condolences of the Order to Tom's wife Betty and his sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.**

**As such we now have a sizable hole to fill in the Media Committee. We are looking at some Brothers who may fill the role. If you feel that you could carry on the work that Brother Tom did, please feel free to email me or phone me (on the number later in this Bulletin).**

### **Columba Magazine**

The Summer Edition of Columba Magazine was held back but will have been delivered to you all in early July. We apologise for this being a later delivery. We are now preparing for the autumn 2022 Edition of the Magazine. **This will not be delivered to you until sometime in late October / Early November.** This is because we are now working to a new schedule which was proposed at Supreme Council in October. This is to allow us time to collate photographs and reports from Supreme Council and put them into the magazine. Articles for the autumn 2022 Edition must be with us **no later than Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September for inclusion. Articles must be sent to [columba.magazine@ksc.org.uk](mailto:columba.magazine@ksc.org.uk) ONLY. Please do not email articles to Head Office or [media@ksc.org.uk](mailto:media@ksc.org.uk) as these can be missed from the magazine.**

If you want to change your mind on how we deliver Columba Magazine to you (i.e., from paper to electronic copy or vice versa) please let us know by 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in time for your Autumn 2022 Edition to be delivered on time. **Any such requests must be emailed to [headoffice@ksc.org.uk](mailto:headoffice@ksc.org.uk)**

### **KSC Email System**

We are already setting up the email addresses and are now in the process of setting up all Council Grand Knights and Officers. To get your @ksc.org.uk email address all you have to do is get in contact. Contact Brother Sean Smith on 07786 003737 to get yourself set up (this phone number **must not be sent to anyone who is not an Officer in the Order**). Get in contact as soon as you can,

**Be Aware: After Supreme Council 2022 the Order will not be emailing any personal email addresses. We will be sending all correspondence to your @ksc.org.uk email address!! Get your email address today. This has been extended to allow more time for Provincial Grand Knights, Provincial Officers, Council Grand Knights and Council Officers to get in contact.**

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*





## Media

### **Is it secure?**

This is a question we are sometimes asked. If you are unsure then the following will explain and allay any fears you have:

*Our Office365 system has been set up with anti-phishing, anti-malware, and anti-virus protections in place (as much as we can).*

*Whilst we can provide some security, we cannot guarantee that the system is 100% secure, like any system worldwide.*

*Where possible phishing emails and malware emails are tracked by the system and, where possible quarantined by the system and not delivered to inboxes.*

*With regards to personal attacks, this is out of our purview as an organisation. Nothing is 100% guaranteed, in life, and in computers.*

*If a user receives a spam email, then this is automatically put into their "junk email" folder. It is left entirely to the user to protect their own computers. We cannot do that for them. All we can do is advise all users that they protect themselves.*

*I have worked in computer systems for over 30 years and as such I have seen major improvements in security of computer systems.*

*Are we totally safe from attack? No - no-one ever is.*

*Do we have protections in place? - Yes, as much as we can including anti-phishing, anti-malware, anti-spyware, and encryption.*

*Does nothing get through? No - hackers have always been one step ahead of the game, however attacks are few and far between in getting through. Personal protection is for the end-user to organise themselves by installing a good anti-virus software. This in theory provides an extra layer of security.*

*As we have built the system using only @ksc.org.uk email addresses then personal information on the system is kept to a minimum, unless users decide to include personal details when they use the email system. Again, that is a personal choice.*

*I have looked at, and do on a regular basis, the reports that I receive from Microsoft about our email system, and I can confirm that in the last 6 weeks we have had only 1 email sent to the quarantine, no phishing emails, and no emails that contain any recognised malware contained in emails.*

*I hope that this answers any such queries. However, if Brothers have any further questions, please feel free to ask them to contact me directly by email and I will answer those queries.*

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



## Media

### **KSC Website 2022 Version**

Work is still progressing on our new Website. A “soft launch” will be given to the Board of Directors at their next Meeting in late June before it is showcased at Supreme Council in October.

**In the meantime, if you have any photographs of Knights in your Council or Province and you want it featured on the new Website, please feel free to email them to [media@ksc.org.uk](mailto:media@ksc.org.uk) and title the email “Photos for the new website”.**

### **Room for Improvement**

If you have IT skills and feel that you would benefit our Committee please do get in touch. We can always welcome Brothers with skills to help us. Please email [media@ksc.org.uk](mailto:media@ksc.org.uk) and come along and assist us in our great work.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

*Sean Smith, Supreme Director for Media*

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*

