



# **KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**

## **CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DECEMBER 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.**

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



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## Brothers

One of the most iconic symbols of Advent is that of the Advent Wreath. It is a beautiful symbol of the eternity of Christ and his presence in our lives. As a symbol, however, apart from being lit on each of the Sundays of Advent, the deeper meaning held within each of those candles is often lost or unacknowledged. This is a pity because there is a richness in the wreath which offers a real opportunity for reflecting in a prayerful way this beautiful season of preparation for Christmas. Before we look at how we might use our Advent Wreath for a time of reflection let us remind ourselves of its origins.

The Advent Wreath was first used as Christian devotion in the Middle Ages. Its design comes from the customs of the pre-Christian Germanic and Scandinavian cultures, where candles and greenery were used as symbols of light and life during the dark and cold winter. The Advent Wreath has always been a circular evergreen wreath with four or five candles, three purple, one rose and sometimes a white candle for Christmas Day placed in the centre of the wreath.

The candles symbolise the light of Christ coming into the world. The evergreen symbolises renewal and the circular shape the completeness of God. The candle colours come from the traditional liturgical colours of Advent, (purple and rose) and Christmas (white). Each candle is lit on the appropriate Sunday of Advent and then the candles can be lit each day according to the week. Overtime each candle was given a name and linked to a particular part of the Advent story.

Candle 1. Hope (purple) Candle 2. Peace (purple) Candle 3. Joy (rose) Candle 4. Love (purple)

Praying with a focus on each candle can really help us to reflect as we journey through Advent. Just taking fifteen or twenty minutes each day to pray can enrich our appreciation of the season which so often can be overtaken by the need to shop endlessly, bake, send out invites etc. Simply giving a short period of time allows us to breathe and refocus on why we are doing all this preparation in the first place.

On behalf of Trish and myself and the Board of Directors we would like to wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

May St Columba protect you all and keep you safe.

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*



## FINANCE, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE

### **KSC COUNCIL 110 RESPONSE TO SUPREME COUNCIL PAPERS 2022 WITH ADDITIONAL REFERENCES TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH SUPREME KNIGHT AND DIRECTORS**

KSC Council 110 discussed the Supreme Council 2022 papers (helpfully provided by Bro Stephen McMillan Regional Director Area 3) at its meeting on Monday 12 September. The following notes have been produced following those discussions and incorporate some issues/questions which were not considered during the Supreme Knight's meeting at KSC 110 Club on 27 July 2022.

These notes and questions follow, where possible, the format of the Supreme Council papers and also are produced in line with the deadline for comments offered in the Audit Finance and Governance report (page 33) and submitted via the Regional Director.

#### **General**

There are presentational errors which have caused some confusion viz:

- the pack received comprises 174 pages; the agenda refers to 211;
- the membership report (page 75) indicates a membership of 2791; the CBF report (page 41) states more than 4000;
- the agenda 11.1 refers to Audit.....report of 19/20;
- we have assumed that items below Total Income on page 36 relate to Expenditure for the same period.

#### **Audit, Finance and Governance Report**

There is no audit; the Chartered Accountants confirm that they have not carried out an audit of (presumably) the Central Account (CA) and there is an Independent Examination of the Central Benevolent (sic) Fund (CBF).

Unlike previous years and normal practice there are no notes to the CA accounts covering eg accounting policies, property and fixtures and, particularly, the loan from CBF to Central Account and usually described as an integral part of the accounts.

There is no indication that the agreed 3% interest rate on the CBF loan has been charged nor is there any clarity if the "underpayments" from previous years (when the 3% was not paid) would be caught up.

For the CA, "Other income" is given as £21602 (almost 11.5% of the total income) but there are no explanatory notes.



More detail is given on the CBF investments portfolio, which is a good development, albeit at a different date to the accounts.

What is the current situation with VAT registration? Has the Order's status been changed? If so with what result?

Has the issue with stock undervaluation now been fully resolved? Are systems in place to ensure no repetition?

Have the bank accounts been rationalised?

### **Special Committee**

There is still concern that the new arrangements have introduced another layer of management at a time when membership is now below 3,000.

### **Directors**

It would be helpful if there was a requirement for the Director to share material relating to the governance and management of the Order and consult with Councils on the content to demonstrate accountability to the membership.

### **Provincial Grand Knights**

Purpose/Role 7 states that PGK may speak and vote independently of the Board (presumably of Directors). This implies that Directors may not. Does this not cut across the Director's role in being the link between Councils and the BoD?

### **Membership**

There are gaps in the report which, presumably, will be supplied in advance of the Supreme Council.



## **Media**

The design of the website is a significant improvement.

We support the inclusion in the Members' Area, copies of the latest Handbooks, BoD meeting papers and minutes, Supreme Council papers and minutes.

## **Email system**

We are not convinced about the enforced @ksc.org.uk email system. GK Council 110 has not received any electronic communication despite notifying Head Office repeatedly of his (non-KSC) email address. We agree that the rationale/process has not been well publicised, explained or suggested benefits made clear.

## **Columba Magazine**

We believe that the publication dates should be publicised at the start of each year with deadlines for contributions and adhered to – to prevent significant gaps in publication.

## **Social media**

We agree that social media is useful for Councils when used sensibly but are unhappy with the somewhat draconian threat to close down Council run pages. Is the Order really saying that it wants control of information on local social or spiritual events which are often used to promote the Order and its activities beyond the membership (closed group)? Do you envision a similar approach where Councils use eg Parish websites to promote?

## **Governance**

What is the rationale for looking to establish a company limited by guarantee? What are the likely benefits and costs eg meeting company law reporting requirements?

Have the rules of CBF been changed to permit the loaning of money to CA?

**KSC Council 110 Burnley  
September 2022**



## Supreme Council 2022 Finance & Governance Questions

We have received 8 Questions on the Accounts and 2 Questions on Governance.

### **Question 1; No Audit.**

The law in Scotland to us does not require an Audit on the Central Account. To do an Audit the cost to the Order would be approx. £10K. There is an Independent Examiners report on the CBF as required by OSCR(Scottish Charities Commission)

### **Question 2. Notes, accounting policies are on Pages 46-47 also on CBF.**

Page 36-37 state the value of Head Office. I again, as I stated last year one needs to read carefully about the Loan from CBF to CA. Its there on Page 37 Current Liabilities.

**Question 3;** Yes, we have correctly applied 3% interest to the debt from CBF to CA. Last year we only applied 1% due to the unknown effect of the Pandemic on the Orders Finances. The Board are conscious of the current “Living Expenses” and financial difficulties in the UK. We believe that we may need extra funds to help our brothers & families.

**Question 4. Central Account** – Other Income of £21,602. This was the final part of the Insurance claim on the flood in HO.

**Question 5.** Seems a statement instead of a question but the different date that is expressed is only the date that the accounts were finalised by the Accountants, SK and myself –June 2022.

**Question 6.** Current situation on VAT; The Order is no longer VAT registered. We have gained a small amount by doing so, it will become more apparent in the following years accounts.

**Question 7. Stock Revaluation.** Yes, Head Office Staff overseen by SK, myself have done a thorough in-depth Stock Check. There are controls in place.

**Question 8. Bank Accounts.** We are operating with the minimum of Bank accounts, these may change if question 10 goes ahead.

### **Governance**

**Question 9. Rules of CBF changed re loans to Orders CA?** No changes have been made. If the Sub Committee being formed re CBF this will be added.

**Question 10; Company Limited by guarantee.** I will ask the Supreme Knight to bring us all up to date on this query. —We hope to be in a position to inform the Order later this year and to bring notice to SC 2023.

**Bertie M Grogan KSG IPSK.**  
**Audit, Finance and Governance.**



## Membership & Development

Dear Brothers,

The National Membership Committee met in London on 19 November, it was a fabulous meeting with many items to discuss and I'm grateful to them for the valued feedback.

A great group of Brothers with lots of positivity and we hope this spreads across the country. It just needs one or two Brothers in each Council with this positivity to kick start a new era. Is your Council stale with the same Officers in roles year upon year. Let's try and refresh that and bring up new Brothers to hold Office. Could be worth a try?

You'll be amazed at how many questions I get asked about 'changing' the Order. As much as I want too, we all must follow the Constitution & Rules! Let's do that and we won't go far wrong. If you really feel passionate about something and want to effect change, stand for a higher Office, and drag it forward kicking and screaming! Sitting in our Chambers going over old ground isn't doing any of us any good! My primary role is to increase our chances of gaining new men to join our Order and I'll stick to that throughout the year and evolve it as we know of progress in our Provinces.

In last months bulletin I asked for email contact to set up a working relationship with Brothers who wish to be notified when a gentleman contacts us through the website. I received only one email back and I offer my personal thanks to Brother Joseph Anderson from CL267 (Sudbury) within Province 30 (Westminster West). Least one reply is better than none, but I'll keep plugging away on this.

Now for the good news!

- We've been contacted by a Parish Priest in the Diocese of Dunkeld asking us to establish a new Council in his Parish
- Salford looks to be building up to have a new Council after a very successful recruitment drive by the Past RD R3 now SD Apostolates (20 names taken)
- Province 12 have taken dozens of names in various drives across many Parishes
- Lapsations are falling, gradually
- We recognise the areas in which we are failing and are working continuously to crack on there
- Province 10 working hard on building up relationships with new Priests in the Diocese and to establish new Councils in Parishes where we have none
- Province 18 looking to establish Councils in Tamworth, Leamington Spa, Oxford and Didcot with focused drives over the next few months.
- Province 1 looking to get in the Argyll and the Isles once again. They are working on drives there and in the old P28 in the Diocese of Paisley too.
- Province 14 have a planned recruitment drive in Leigh Park to establish a new Council
- And finally, I'll be visiting my neighbouring island of Guernsey in the new year with my Parish priest to begin the work of re-opening a Council there, with the support of their Parish Priest who is already a MOH and past Chaplain of Basingstoke Council, so seeds sown already with him.

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*





These are only the ones I've heard about, I'm sure there are others. Please do let me know if you have any plans to hold membership drives, I'd love to hear what's going on across the country and to share your good news in this bulletin.

We have a duty to all share the workload and enhance and grow our Order. As my final paragraph at Supreme Council was too difficult to get out at the lectern – I'll write it here for you to take away, reflect on and begin your own recruitment drives...

“We owe it to the Order, our past and our history to up the ante and prove once again that we are the Knights of St Columba, the premier Catholic fraternity in the UK, and we are ready to serve. We are too special to fade away, too big to disappear off the Catholic stage and too important to die. It rests on us Brothers, Brothers in 2022 sitting here in Jersey and right across the British Isles that we were the generation that not only kept the Order alive, but we made it grow and prosper. Let's do this Brothers. Thank you.”

Sarah and I wish you all a wonderful, faith filled Christmas and a safe and healthy new year. 2023 is the year which the Knights of Columba finally gets 'over the line' and gets back in the black after years in the red. You can count on that Brothers...

Best of luck in your efforts to recruit and retain.

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

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## Action & Social

The new Action & Social Committee meet for the first time on teams on the 7th November. They are 4 Brothers of many years' experience of both local and national concerns. The role of the Committee was to;

- Liaise with all Action Convenors to offer support and training if needed.
- Be the support to all, action incorporates all areas (Membership, Welfare, Youth and Media).
- Invigorate all, both Councils and Parishes to enlighten the faith.

**55th Anniversary of the Abortion Act** - The 27th October 2022 marked exactly 55 years since the Abortion Act was passed in 1967 and to which nearly 10,000,000 lives were lost.

From Between 27th October 2022 and 27th April 2023 (the latter date being the anniversary of the Abortion Act coming into effect) SPUC supporters, Churches and Pro-Lifers will rededicate themselves to prayer for respect for life in commemoration of the millions of lives lost. Thousands of leaflets have been distributed with the KSC & SPUC logos on them and sent out across the UK.

We will be holding a rosary every month for the next 6 months on 24th November, 22nd December, 19th January 2023, 16th February 2023, and finally 16th March 2023.

We are also hoping to hold a 40hr Adoration at the end of April 2023 at Middleborough Cathedral to finish off the 6-month Appeal. We have had the first of these held by our Ecclesiastical Advisor Bishop Tom Neylon on teams. But to connect with the most people we have decided to hold the rest over zoom, this means we can put the rosary over Facebook and the website.

**National Pilgrimages** – It is intended that by the end December we circulate a list of dates for all known Knights Pilgrimages across the UK in 2023. This will be advertised in the Columba magazine and e-Columba. Please can you send your pilgrimage dates to [apostolates@ksc.org.uk](mailto:apostolates@ksc.org.uk) for inclusion.

**200 Club** – the 200 club membership currently stand at 129 members with most members renewing their membership for next year. I am doing an email address to all councils and provinces to recruit more members. This brings in funds for the order as a whole but also encourages brothers to engage with the chance of winning something for themselves. We need to bring this up to the full 200 members as it is running at break-even at present.

### Results of the December 2022 200 Club

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Richard Arthur - Council 139
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Harry Welsh - Supreme Knight
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - David Young - Head Office
- 4<sup>th</sup> place - Chris Brooks - Council 518

**Reverse Advent Calendar** – This has been given to all over the last week in an email drop. With the current economic crisis, it is a brother's duty to look after his brothers and their families. This has also been asked to be placed into all parishes to help the food banks over this demanding period.

**Advent Talks** – we are asking brothers to send video from their priest or Chaplain for inclusion on Facebook and the website subject is a talk on Advent. This should be on the values and modern day comparisons, with their views. I am hoping this will allow mote brothers to interact and view the talks. Please send to [media@ksc.org.uk](mailto:media@ksc.org.uk)

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**Golf Day** – We are having a golf days dependent on numbers. The date is 11th at Garstang golf course. Accommodation for two nights including Dinner, Breakfast and 18holes per day. Also included would be tea and coffee on arrival.

The price would be based on two people sharing and so long as there are more than 10 people we would qualify for group discount price of £163 per person.

But to make this a reality we need to gauge numbers, can you email your interest to [apostolates@ksc.org.uk](mailto:apostolates@ksc.org.uk) as soon as possible for us to book this event.

**Christmas Cards** – We are pricing up making Christmas cards using the winners of the nativity competition from this year. Using 3 entries with 4 cards of each design on 6 x 6 cards with verse and our logo on the rear, initial run of 30 packs of 12 cards. These would be sold through the website and head office, hopefully we can find the right pricing and have them ready for Supreme next year.

**National Action Project** – “**Let the Children Live!**” – Due to the mix up at the beginning were we had to print 3000 leaflets as the 1’s provided did not have our information on them. Most of these were handed out at Supreme Council with just a few going back to head office. So I have said it is best that the PGK’s who have some left to pass around their councils, until we have new stock or print out some if we put the master onto the website. Now those have been handed out we have asked for the charity to print some more for us to hand out to councils and interested persons. The Charity has replied with they have no monies to print any more due to printing the initial run. May have to wait until we get some monies for the appeal and use some of that to print more (just a suggestion).

**Derry & Knock Pilgrimage** – We are arranging a National Pilgrimage for the last week in May 2023. Flying out of Manchester & Edinburgh 25th May and flying back from Knock on 29th May. The cost including travel and accommodation is £675 each for 2 sharing or £850 single supplement. Details are now available from Head Office.

**Grand National Draw** – the tickets have now been approved and will be posted out in the coming weeks from Head Office. We will push this after the Advent Season across the Order as again the profits from this helps the running of Action & Youth Projects. I respectfully ask our Regional Directors to focus on this as it's our biggest source of income to do good works, and we have missed out on the last couple of years sales due to the covid lockdowns.

**Mercy Bus** – the Committee are looking at running the mercy bus around the south of England and Wales. To do this we need to collaborate with other catholic societies to make this feasible. We would also need the provinces to step up with help supplying the priests to hold confessions and brothers to help on the bus. We will be looking at the cost of the bus/ minibus and if we can get some sponsorship to alleviate the costs.

**Stephen McMillan**  
**Supreme Director for Action & Social**  
**Knights of St Columba**  
[apostolates@ksc.org.uk](mailto:apostolates@ksc.org.uk)

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## Media

Dear Brothers,

### **Columba Magazine**

The Autumn edition of Columba Magazine was held back, as we said in previous Bulletins, but it has taken longer than we expected as there are a lot of large articles in this 28-page edition.

We are now looking for articles for the Winter Edition of the Magazine, but please be aware that there are quite a lot of articles already sent in for the next edition that we could not fit into the Autumn Edition. *If you have already sent an article and it has not appeared yet then please be assured that we have your article and it will appear in the Winter 2022 Edition.*

**Please note the closing date for inclusions for the Winter 2022/23 Edition is December 10<sup>th</sup> and the Winter Edition should be with you all in January 2023. 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.**

### **KSC Email System**

We carry on with this exercise. If you are an Officer in a Council or Province, please do contact me on 07786 003737 as soon as you can to get your email address.

Uptake is slow!!! Please do ensure that at least one Member of your Council has an @ksc.org.uk email address.

*If you have already phoned but have not had a response, please do call again. At times Brother Sean Smith is very busy or is called away for various reasons, for which he apologises.*

### **KSC Website 2022 Version**

More new features are currently underway in the Members Area, including Forms for 2023 that can be completed online and sent directly to the Supreme Director for actioning. A copy is also sent to Head Office for retention for records.

### **Microsoft Teams Training Seminars**

We have already begun these and have so far covered Regions 1, 2, 3 and 4. These are being well received, with some Brothers asking to join a 2<sup>nd</sup> session so that they can take everything in.

A slideshow has been prepared to explain everything about how to set up free Teams Meetings for Council, Provincial Council Meetings, Rosary groups, etc.

*If you are a Council who would like to be able to use Microsoft Teams for free, then please email [media@ksc.org.uk](mailto:media@ksc.org.uk) and we will arrange a training course for you all in the New Year. Alas we cannot set this up before then as we are currently setting up training for Provinces and Regions.*

**Sincerely & Fraternaly**

**Sean Smith, Supreme Director for Media**

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## Spirituality & Welfare

As we look forward to Christmas, and we enter the time of preparation, without this event in the churches calendar we would not have Christianity, we would not have the promise of eternal life with God the father.

The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming,” which is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia*. Most know Advent today as a time of anticipation and expectation of the birth of Christ.

### What Is the Advent Wreath?

**Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world.**

It is thought the Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God’s unending love and the eternal life He makes possible.

The Advent wreath is a symbol of the season, with a candle lit each of the four Sundays leading up to, and on Christmas Day. The light of the flickering candle flames reminds us who Jesus is: *“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* (John 1:4-5). Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red colour points ahead to Jesus’ sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins.

**First Advent Candle:** The first purple candle symbolizes hope. Also known as the “Prophecy Candle” in memory of the prophets, particularly Isaiah, who prophesied the birth of Christ. It symbolizes the anticipation felt in awaiting the coming Messiah.

**Second Advent Candle:** The second purple candle symbolizes faith. Also known as the “Bethlehem Candle,” signifies Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

**Third Advent Candle:** The third candle is ordinarily pink and represents joy. This candle is pink because the rose colour represents joy, also known as the “Shepherd’s Candle.” The third Sunday of Advent is meant to remind us of the world’s joy at the birth of Jesus and that the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent.

**Fourth Advent Candle:** The final purple candle marks the last week of Advent as we anticipate the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, also known as the “Angel’s Candle,” signifies peace. It reminds us of the angels’ message: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men” ([Luke 2:14](#)).

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**Fifth Advent Candle:** is lit on Christmas day, symbolises the light that has come into the world. It is good for families to do an advent wreath at home, it will help to focus the children's minds on the true meaning of Christmas, way from Santa and presents.

Information gained from various websites

### **Remembering those who have died:**

It has been my pleasure to join a number of council's and province's memorial mass, both physically and virtually, one of my local council's masses, was held on Remembrance Sunday. On the sanctuary there was a cross that was covered in cut out poppies, the parish priest explained as part of his homily, that it was done by his parish's primary school children.



He pointed out that one of the poppies was different, it was a hand print. When the child was questioned her reply stunned the teacher. The child said, "You said it was for those who gave their lives in the ultimate sacrifice for us, I did the hand of Jesus, the black circle is where the nails went into Jesus's hands, and the red is his blood shed for us".

This was a sharp lesson to me, how as adults we fail miserably to see things through the innocence of a child.



**The Emeritus Archbishop of Glasgow, Archbishop Mario Conti, has died at the age of 88.**

**The BBC reported**



He succeeded Cardinal Thomas Winning as Archbishop of Glasgow in 2002 and retired 10 years later. Born in Elgin, he was a priest for 64 years and a bishop for 45.

He was one of the last surviving bishops in the world to have been appointed by Pope Paul VI. One of his proudest moments came when he welcomed Pope Benedict XVI to Britain at the first public Mass of the German Pope's state visit in 2010 at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow.

The Glasgow Times described him as The Emeritus Archbishop of Glasgow Mario Conti has left a lasting legacy across the city he loved - and will be fondly remembered by its people for his compassion, humour and warmth.

He oversaw the renovation of St Andrew's Cathedral and the construction of the adjacent Italian Cloister Garden which remembers the victims of the wartime Arandora Star tragedy.

My personal memories of him. is of a warm caring man who was a staunch supporter of our order and its brothers.

We keep him, his family and the people of Scotland that he served so well, in our thoughts and prayers.

### **Christmas Wishes:**

Anne and I wish all Brothers and family members, a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

In The January Bulletin, I will try to point Brothers and Councils to various websites and organisations where they can get help with the current economic climate.

**Sean Mulligan  
Supreme Director  
Welfare and Spirituality**

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## **Youth & Young People**

**Youth and Young People are the future of the Church, and our Order has a responsibility to work and demonstrate to them by example that the Gospel teaches the only true path to follow. With the secular attack on our beliefs, it is our duty to assist the young to grow in the likeness of Christ, in wisdom and grace.**

Brothers, thank you for the preparation that you are all putting into the promotion of the 2022/2023 Youth and Young People's Competitions. Remember, as stated at Supreme Council by myself and reinforced by Brother Christopher Brooks of Province 27 East Anglia when he came up to the Lectern, Not having a Youth Officer is not a reason not to promote and engage in the promotion of the Youth Competitions. You will gain so, so much. So try it and engage.

**The committee and myself will welcome any feedback about everything we are asking you to do. 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 and youth@ksc.org.uk**

Facebook- KSC Youth and Young People

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

Join the Youth and Young People Facebook page and visit it regularly to see various resources posted on there. Download and promote the appropriate resource that appeals to you to your Parish and your schools etc.

**Is 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 and youth@ksc.org.uk**

**Madonna Oakes Trophy – Winning Council as announced at Supreme Council. Awarded to the Province or Council who have gone over and above in their work for our Youth. The Winner is Council 977 Gravesend, Province 12 Southwark.**

I attended St John the Evangelist RC Church, Sunday 13th November 2022 and presented this Trophy to the Council in front of their Parish at their busiest Mass. We used the occasion to promote the 2022/2023 Youth Competitions as well as to make outstanding Youth presentations to several Winners of the Supreme Head Office Competitions. **Fantastic occasion. See the YouTube video** of the Council again taking the Trophies they have won this year to their other Parish and using the occasion to promote the Keep Christ in Christmas Posters and Promote the Youth Competitions with 2 Gentlemen showing an interest in joining the Order.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gX1TzezEUdc>

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

The Competition List has come out to the whole country and is now on the website. Let us know of any assistance that you need to promote them into your Parish, your Schools and your Parish Organisations. Yes, let us know.

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It is not too late to send this out to your Parish, Parish Groups, Parish Catechists for the Children's Liturgy, the Sacrament of Holy communion Group and the Sacrament of Confirmation Group, your schools and your Education Commission Youth Director or Youth Administrator. Yes, its not too late.

Remember to submit your Provincial Winners of your Photography and Nativity Competitions in on time please.

**Date Winning Provincial Entries to Arrive at Head Office.**

Photography Competition: Primary Grades	7 to 11 years of age.	13th January 2023
Photography Competition: Secondary Grades	11 to 14 years of age.	13th January 2023
Photography Competition: Senior Grades	14 to 18 years of age.	13th January 2023*
Nativity Scene Painting: Primary Grades	4 to 7 years of age.	3rd February 2023
Nativity Scene Painting: Primary Grades	7 to 11 years of age.	3rd February 2023

\*Correction.

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

**Things to do**

# **SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION**

**Columban Missionaries Competition**

We are looking for students (aged 13-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme: **Building Peaceful Futures**

**Don't miss this chance to make your mark!**

**Two separate competitions will be held, one for students in Ireland and one in Britain (England, Scotland, Wales); each has two categories: Writing and Image.**

**The deadline for entries is 10 February 2023. Winners will be announced on Columban media on 13 March 2023.**

**The winning entries will be published in the Far East magazine, Vocation For Justice newsletter, online on Columban websites in Ireland and Britain, shared on Columban social media, and published in other Catholic media.**

<https://www.columbancompetition.com/>

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### **World Youth Sunday – November 2022**

<https://worldyouthsunday.com>

Tens of thousands of Young People will be brought together to celebrate World Youth Day. See email sent to you and see our Youth Facebook page as well for further information. Forward the email to your Schools, your Catechist and your Youth Groups.

### **World Youth Day - 01-06 AUGUST LISBON 2023**

Suggestion is that you contact your Diocese and ask to be informed of their Youth Groups intention of taking a group to the event. Keep an eye on the Youth and Young Peoples Facebook page as well for any information I find or is sent to me by our Partner Youth Organisations.

<http://www.lisboa2023.org/>

### **CYMFED Flame Saturday 4 March 2023**

Tickets for this event at Wembley, London are being sold very quickly. Again, some of your Diocese Youth Groups are taking groups to FLAME. Join them is my suggestion or organise your own groups. Do it quickly, so you don't miss out. Everything I find out will be posted on our Youth and Young People Facebook page. On occasions some of the Information will be emailed to you.

<https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

### **St Bernadette Relic Tour 2022**

Resources for Children and Young People are available exploring St Bernadette's life. The Relic tour is not just for us adults but also for our Young People as well. Please download them from the link or from Our Facebook Page for Youth and Young people. Send the link to your Schools and even Parish and Parish Groups. <https://stbernadette.org.uk/resources>

### **Catholic Student Network**

Please have a look at our new Partner Organisations Programme for September 2023. Thereafter, keep informed about their Programme. Attend any of their programme if at all possible. Keep a look out for information from Dep.SK and WSD Brother Danny's membership bulletins and our Facebook page. <https://www.catholicstudentnetwork.co.uk/>

**The Youth and Young People Supreme Committee wish you and your families well in Faith, Family and Fraternity. Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.**

Fraternally,

**Michael Akinrele**

**Supreme Director for Youth and Young People.**

*Faith, Family, Fraternity*