



# KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**JANUARY 2024**

**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.**

*Let Life Flourish! - A Spiritual Bouquet!*



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**The Supreme Knight**

## **Supreme Knight January 2024 Bulletin**

Brothers let me first wish you all a very Happy and prosperous New Year.

What a finish to 2023, we had a historic conclusion to Supreme Council held on Zoom. There were 43 Brothers in attendance and the business of the Meeting was to discuss and approve 2022/23 accounts. After some lengthy discussions the accounts were approved. I thank all the Brothers who made the time to join us and took part in the discussions.

I was then on my travels to finish the year of with a bang!!!!. I attended Council 60 Carlisle's Clergy Dinner which was held in St Margaret Mary's Club, an excellent night with the guest speaker Canon Doyle who gave an excellent talk on growing up in Derry in the forties and fifties. I was invited to attend the children's Mass the following morning before heading off to London.

I had the great honour and privilege to be invited to the Silver Jubilee of Fr Philip Baptiste, Province 11 Chaplain, in Hampton where I presented him with a Papal Blessing on behalf of the Order. Congratulations Fr.Philip and we hope you have many more years to go.

Next, I was on my way to Leeds for their Provincial Meeting. Unfortunately British rail had a hand in my travel arrangements and my train was cancelled. Sorry Brothers I couldn't attend, I hope you understand.

I then went to Bedford for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Thanks Province 38 for the wonderful reception, true Fraternity.

From there I made my way to Glasgow to catch up with our Head Office Staff and meet with S.P.U.C. The Meeting with S.P.U.C. was to launch our new collaborated project with John Deighan CEO of S.P.U.C. We are also hoping our Brothers from Ireland and I.A.C.K will be joining us.

Onwards and upwards Brothers, this year Pope Francis has dedicated a year of Prayer. In conjunction with S.P.U.C. we launched a Spiritual Bouquet for the next twelve months with Rosaries, Holy Hours, Masses and possible 40 Hours Adorations, and as many Prayers as possible. The theme being:

### **“Let Life Flourish! - A Spiritual Bouquet”**

Join with the Knights of St Columb and the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Children in a prayer for the Sanctity of Life.

From the Feast of the Holy Innocents on the 28<sup>th</sup> December to the Solemnity of Christ the King 2024, we will be praying to make abortion unthinkable and to uphold the dignity of all life from conception to a natural Death. There will be intentions set out monthly.

*Let Life Flourish! - A Spiritual Bouquet!*



A website will be set up for everyone to send picture's and what they did for the Bouquet. The intention is to bind all e-mail, letters, and pictures from individual groups, Branches, Councils, Parishes etc.

Then at the end of the Bouquet we can present to the Bishops and Papal Nuncio.

Brothers that gives us a busy start to the New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all over the year.

May St Columba keep you safe and protect you all.

Fraternally

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Henry Webb', written in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background.

Supreme Knight



## Membership & Development

A very happy New Year to you and your families.

We prepared prepare our hearts, bodies, and minds for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ just a few weeks ago. Whilst enjoying the run up to Christmas itself, no doubt men who don't often come to Mass will be found doing just that. Did we engage with them and be the welcoming face of Christ in what could be a strange environment for them? If you see them again, mention you're a Catholic Knight and who knows what could happen next!!

With this said, I was most disappointed with our return from the website with Membership enquires. We only attracted two emails, one from Scotland (Province 1) and one from Westminster (Province 11). It appears that we were not visible enough but, not to worry, we'll dust ourselves off and we go again as Lent begins on 14 February. Our greatest Feast and the weekend which Christianity is founded, a perfect time to take centre stage and get those men in!

So, to follow on from that, as you know, our website has a feature on where interested men can register their interest with us. This is then passed on to the area when the gentleman lives. In the last KSC year (October 22 to October 23) we had three hundred of these contact emails. Sixty-two men joined the Order in this time. Men have joined by other means too of course. So where are these men disappearing to? We must follow up these enquiries Brothers, it is a lifeline for us and such an easy way to increase our Membership. Thank you all for your help with this.

Standby for information in the next week or two for a Membership workshop to be held on Zoom. Hopeful Saturday 3 February will be the date, beginning at 10am. A chance for me to explain firsthand how we are doing nationally, where we are strong and where we could improve. I would be delighted to take questions too, hopefully I'll have the answers for you! We carried out a workshop a couple of years ago and it was a roaring success. So, let us hope for a good turnout once again this time around. I would like to hear from you across the country if you have any experiences, both positive or otherwise, to help us all and learn from these experiences.

I am looking forward to showing you how we are doing, and I assure you, it's not all doom and gloom! On the contrary, we have picked ourselves up amazingly well! Just imagine if those missing three hundred men had joined? And another three hundred this year! Try your best Brothers, that's all we can do.

Please do contact me - [membership@ksc.org.uk](mailto:membership@ksc.org.uk) - with anything you may think would benefit the Order. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sarah, Joseph John, and I had a wonderful Christmas. A first Christmas for little JJ! His M1 is filled out for 2039 of course!

With my kindest fraternal wishes,

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

*Let Life Flourish! - A Spiritual Bouquet!*



## Spirituality & Welfare

During the month of November many councils and provinces have held their annual masses for Deceased Brothers. These have taken place in England, Scotland and Wales, many brothers along with their families and Brothers Widows have attended. Thank you to all councils and provinces for letting us know the times and dates for these masses.

Looking further ahead, 2025 is going to be declared a Jubilee Year by the Holy Father. We need to plan ahead for the Jubilee year, with events throughout the three countries masses, rosaries and retreats. We will need the help of our Chaplains and all the clergy where possible, the orders Bi-annual mass is due to take place in the middle of 2025 so this will be a chance for us all to come together.

We will be joining in with other likeminded organisations such as SPUC, suggestions are also being made for the order to have a Pilgrimage in 2024.

Over the Christmas period have visits been made to the widows of Brothers, sick and housebound Brothers, a card and small gift would not have gone a miss. Visits to widows are very important, I have heard that one of our widows who lost her husband that had served the order in a very high position, hasn't had a visit since his funeral last March.

**SW3 Forms** Can councils please forward these forms in as soon as possible. The Supreme Knight recently visited a council which I will not name asking about the councils Head Office dues it then came to light that several brothers had gone to their eternal reward, also this same council had two brothers who qualified for the S.N.A. I don't want to keep going on about this but Brothers please keep us up to date. Thank you.

**Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently.**

Please Pray for the Repose of their Souls.

DATE	BROTHER	COUNCIL	PROVINCE
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Kevin Austen		
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Joseph O'Sullivan	82	10
	John Holden	92	11
26 <sup>th</sup> October	Bogden Komorwski	634	19
	Brian Fitzsimmons	93	18
5 <sup>th</sup> October	Ian Wood	324	34
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Peter Allen	123	12
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Peter Wilson	468	7
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Brian Mangan	84	2
17 <sup>th</sup> November	John Dolan		
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Jovit B Dias	118	12
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Gabriel Viera Dos Reis	216	39



We have also learned of the death of the following wife of a Brother.

Mrs. Anne Theakston wife of Brother Alan from Otley Council 425 Province 5 Leeds who passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023, and Mrs Ann Fanthome, wife of Brother John of Council 380, Province 12 who passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Please keep the Brothers and their families in your prayers at this time.

I would like to wish you all a happy new year.

***Barry Johnston***  
***Supreme Director for Spirituality & Welfare.***



## Daily Mass Scheme for January 2024

DAY	DATE	COUNCIL NAME	COUNCIL No.
Monday	1st January	Sittingborne & Faversham	210
Tuesday	2nd January	Whitstable	214
Wednesday	3rd January	Tooting Bec	219
Thursday	4th January	Ramsgate	264
Friday	5th January	Streatham	266
Saturday	6th January	Welling	294
Sunday	7th January	Eltham	326
Monday	8th January	Orpington	327
Tuesday	9th January	Wooster Park	328
Wednesday	10th January	West Norwood	356
Thursday	11th January	Lesnes Abbey	380
Friday	12th January	Chatham	418
Saturday	13th January	Sydenham	472
Sunday	14th January	Surrey North	487
Monday	15th January	Brixton and Stockwell	571
Tuesday	16th January	Sheerness	625
Wednesday	17th January	Strood	631
Thursday	18th January	Hartley	632
Friday	19th January	St Mary's Croydon	974
Saturday	20th January	Gravesend	977
Sunday	21st January	Abbey Wood	978
Monday	22nd January	Southampton	136
Tuesday	23rd January	Bournemouth	139
Wednesday	24th January	Basingstoke	169
Thursday	25th January	Farnborough	185
Friday	26th January	Swindon	225
Saturday	27th January	Pool	232
Sunday	28th January	Eastiegh	393
Monday	29th January	Isle of White	411
Tuesday	30th January	Gosport	499
Wednesday	31st January	Park Gate	620





## Media

### Columba Magazine

The Winter Edition of Columba Magazine has been produced and is displayed on the KSC Website for all to read!!! Please do send the link to all of your Clergy and Widows so that they can read it. Please send any articles in for the Summer Edition by

#### Summer Editions - 1<sup>st</sup> May

All articles for each edition must be sent to [columba.magazine@ksc.org.uk](mailto:columba.magazine@ksc.org.uk) or by post to Brother Sean Smith, 29 Fernside Avenue, Poole, Dorset BH14 0PN. Articles sent to [media@ksc.org.uk](mailto:media@ksc.org.uk) and [headoffice@ksc.org.uk](mailto:headoffice@ksc.org.uk) **will not be published!** Whilst we will make every effort to ensure that as many articles are published, please assist the Media Committee by having articles sent to the correct email address and on time.

If you have been a regular contributor to the Magazine, we ask that you continue to submit pieces to the Magazine on a regular basis for inclusion.

### KSC Email System

Due to a decision by Microsoft to discontinue one of the licences that we had planned on using to give every Officer an email address, the decision has had to be made **that only Provincial Grand Knights, and Council Grand Knights** will now be issued with an @ksc.org.uk email address and licence.

**If your Grand Knight is unable to access a computer then you will need to request from the Supreme Knight permission for that email address to be given to another OFFICER in the Council, until such time as a Grand Knight is elected who can receive these emails.**

### Knight's News

The next edition of Knight's News will be sent out to Councils shortly. If you have anything you would like to advertise in the upcoming edition, please email this to [knights-news@ksc.org.uk](mailto:knights-news@ksc.org.uk)

### Facebook

As was agreed at Supreme Council, you can now request for your Council or Province Facebook page to be made available as a Public Page. In order to do this, you must add the Supreme Knight, Immediate Past Supreme Knight and Supreme Director for Media as Admins to your page **prior to making any Facebook Page public.**

**As of this month all KSC Pages must remove the "Faith, Family, Fraternity" logo, words and references and instead replace these with the graphic that will be shared to you by your Provincial Grand Knight.**

### KSC Website Review Committee

In December we asked if any Brothers would like to join this Sub-Committee. We have had a number of requests to join and have accepted some Brothers to the Sub-Committee. What we require now is Brothers from the North of England, Wales and Scotland to come on board. We have already enough Brothers from the South of England on the Committee and will not be adding any more.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

**Sean Smith,**  
**Supreme Director for Media**



## Action & Social

**200 Club** – We are now at 145 members. We as a board made the decision to ask all councils to take a number in the 200 club as yet, as of writing we have only just put out the request, so we will see how many take up our request. 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, and hopefully if the councils all take a number we could possibly have up to 400 members. This increase includes 2 councils who have taken 5 numbers each, but also 4 councils who have not renewed their numbers.

We as an order do these things so we can raise monies without raising dues, I hope you all understand and will support us. The order has been running at a loss due to the lack of numbers being taken. We have taken the decision that until it become more feasible we are reducing the number of prizes down from 4 to 3. So from March Draw last year we are have a £50 top prize and 2 £25 prizes.

**Spiritual Bouquet** -- The Knights of St Columba and the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children in a journey of prayer for the Sanctity of Life.

### Let life flourish from Conception to a natural death

From the Feast of the Holy Innocents on 28th December 2023 to the Solemnity of Christ the King 2024, we will be praying to make abortion unthinkable and to uphold the dignity of all life from conception to a natural death.

Then we can have the monthly intentions.

**Feast of the Holy Innocents** : For those facing a crisis pregnancy at this time

**January:** For families, that they will be supported and remain open to the gift of new life

**February:** For those seeking healing after an experience of abortion

**March:** For medical staff, that they will always act to protect the dignity of human life at every stage

**April:** For those grieving the loss of a child during pregnancy

**May:** For women and families struggling with infertility

**June:** For fathers of children lost to abortion

**July:** For the Church, that its witness to the sanctity of life will touch the hearts of all people

**August:** For women and families expecting a child at this time

**September:** For political leaders, that they will act to uphold the sanctity of life through just laws

**October:** For an end to abortion in the UK

**November:** For the work of SPUC and the KSC in defending the sanctity of life

**Feast of Christ the King -** Solemn close of the Spiritual Bouquet

We will be having a website to receive all prayer actions from individuals, groups, councils and parishes etc.

We started on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December the Feast of the Holy Innocents at 6pm with Holy Hour of rosary and prayers.



Then in January the Board of Directors will start us off by doing a weekly intention from their own Parish. We will then be asking councils and parishes to contribute by having a zoom intention i.e. prayers, holy hour, benediction etc. from their own parishes or if we can our cathedrals. I will be writing to all the Bishops of the UK for permission and if we can participation from them in our cause for the run up to the Jubilee 2025.

I will be in touch as we move through the year and update on the website and Facebook, I ask you to take this opportunity to help profess our faith in action and support us in our endeavours.

Then at the end of the bouquet we can present to the Bishops and Papal Nuncio.

**Grand National Draw** – the new grand national draw have come out in the next few weeks. I understand that some people are against horse racing on principle, but it is important to distinguish the draw uses the horse racing content as a way of promoting the fund raising. But please remember that this is the main fund raiser to fund raise the central work of the order – namely Action and Youth activities.

Perhaps this year you can sell to your parish and friends and family. This is namely a raffle in all it functions, so see if you can sell more to your parish promote it just after Christmas and help us to help the Youth and Action projects going forward.

We have changed the design of the ticket to include “raising fund for the youth of today” to further promote our aims for the tickets. I will put out to the order a choice of 3 ways, we can run this in future:

- A. Carry on as we are;
- B. Rename the draw as a raffle and just draw tickets with the prizes being the same,
- C. We make the draw a Christmas raffle and maybe change the size of the prizes to give more out to Brothers.

This should be going out to Brothers at the end of the month and if we go with option C we can go with starting with this Christmas.

**Let the Children Live**—I have emailed the charity about an update to pass onto Brothers but as yet have had no reply. I do know that Pauline Allen has had a hip replacement just before Christmas so this maybe delaying a reply.

**An Appeal** – A request is in the parish notices for my church from the chaplain for Risley Prison for rosaries, Bibles etc. Warrington, where Risley is located, it is within Province 8, so it could be our responsibility to assist if possible. I am aware, however, of the financial position and so not a great deal may be able to be done, but it is for the Action Committee to decide on this.

This arrived on my desk yesterday, please if you can help by sending any bibles, rosary beads, etc. please do the address is below.

The Chaplin of HMP Risley Prison  
Warrington road  
Risley  
Warrington  
WA3 6BP

*Fraternally*  
**Stephen McMillan**  
*Supreme Director Action and Social*



## **Youth & Young People**

READ AND ACTION THIS IMPORTANT BULLETIN.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PROVINCIAL & COUNCIL YOUTH OFFICERS

**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.**

### **Promotion of Youth and Young People**

**Brothers, at Supreme Council I implored our Supreme Councillors, this are your WPGK, IPPGK or Representatives to encourage you, the Youth Officers and your Provinces and Councils not just to Think, Think Schools as your focus for promotion of our Youth Competitions, but to also think Parish Catechists, Parishes Young People and their Parents, Parish Youth Clubs, Parish Ethnic Groups and their Young People. We all know that within our Archdiocese and Diocese these Groups co-exists with us. They attend our Mass and then attend their own ethnic Masses after us at the same Parishes throughout the Country. Many, if not all have Youth Groups. Some Provinces and their Councils are having success in this area. But so many Brothers are active members of these Groups and don't involve their Young People in our Competitions but involve the Young People in the Various Groups events. Brother Youth Officers, Provincial and Council, please let us address this area and help to evangelise our Young people.**

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion and Confirmation Classes**

**Can I respectfully implore our Provincial and Council Youth Officers to please request to speak with the Young People and their Parents about the Knights of St Columba and give them an introduction to the Youth and Young People Competitions during one of their Communion and Confirmation Class. This is a good opportunity to evangelise Young People in a direct way. **Please give us a feedback****

**Resources to download and forward to your Parish Contacts, Youth Groups, Parish Groups etc.**

### **Million Minutes**

<https://millionminutes.org/>  
<https://millionminutes.org/revival>

**Aid to the Church in Need.**

<https://acnuk.org/resources-landing/>

**Missio**

<https://missio.org.uk/primary-school-resources/>  
<https://missio.org.uk/secondary/>

**CYMFED**

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



## CAFOD

<https://cafod.org.uk/education>

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources>

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/secondary-and-youth-resources>

**Wishing you all the very best of luck with your Competition submissions.**

## NATIONAL COMPETITIONS 2023 – 2024 ENGLAND, WALES AND SCOTLAND

The new dates for 2023-2024 were sent out in August and September.

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

Christmas Photography Competition: Primary Grades	7 to 11 years of age.	CLOSED
Christmas Photography Competition: Secondary Grades	11 to 14 years of age.	CLOSED
Christmas Photography Competition: Senior Grades	14 to 18 years of age.	CLOSED
Nativity Scene Painting: Primary Grades	4 to 7 years of age.	CLOSED
Nativity Scene Painting: Primary Grades	7 to 11 years of age.	CLOSED
Easter Photography Competition: Primary Grades	7 to 11 years of age.	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Easter Photography Competition: Secondary Grades	11 to 14 years of age.	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Easter Photography Competition: Senior Grades	14 to 18 years of age.	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Lent Scene Painting: Primary Grades	7 to 11 years of age.	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Lent Scene Painting: Secondary Grades	11 to 14 years of age.	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Lent Scene Painting: Senior Grades	14 to 18 years of age.	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024

### **Information from Provinces.**

Keep the information coming and keep posting on the Youth Facebook page what your Parish, Schools and Parents permit in terms of pictures and informative articles of achievements and milestones.

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.

**Facebook-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)**

**The committee and myself will welcome any feedback about everything we have asked 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](mailto:headoffice@ksc.org.uk) and [youth@ksc.org.uk](mailto:youth@ksc.org.uk)**



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

**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.**

*Fraternally*

*Michael Akinrele*  
*Supreme Director Youth & Young People*