



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

THE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 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.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT HEAD OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS FROM FRIDAY
20th DECEMBER 2024 UNTIL MONDAY 6th
JANUARY 2024**



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N.B. – PLEASE NOTE THAT, IN LINE WITH THE NEW CONSTITUTION & RULES, NAMES OF OFFICES AT BOARD LEVEL HAVE CHANGED. A DECISION ON WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT PROVINCIAL AND COUNCIL LEVEL WILL BE ADVISED IN DECEMBER 2024.

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The Supreme Knight

My Dear Brothers,

The Month of November has been busy and at the same time gone like a blur. Hangovers from before Supreme Council 2024 issues had to be dealt with and thank God some have had a satisfactory conclusion. We move on.

Brothers, we need to have you all participating in all the initiatives that the Order has going on. Without your participation things that we organise have little impact. Like the Rosary's. Our friends, family, clergy and Parishioners should be joining us online. This can only happen if we invite them and make them aware of it. Let us turnover a new leaf and do better going forward please.

Province 12 Southwark Deceased Mass

I attended the Province 12 Southwark Deceased Brothers, Family and Clergy Mass Saturday 9th November 2024 at Our Lady of the Angels, Erith. The Mass was very, very well attended. Plenty of Widows present and family Members of deceased Brothers. More Brothers in attendance than in previous years. We processed in, I did the Reading. We had a reception in the Hall thereafter. Thank WPGK Brother Paddy and Brothers.

Westminster Province 41 Deceased Mass.

Myself and the Dep.SK Brother Sean attended the Province 41 Westminster Deceased Brothers, Family and Clergy Mass 17th November 2024 at Westminster Cathedral. It was very well attended by several PPGK, and Council Brothers. We did the Reading and retired to have a reception across the Road. Thank WPGK Brother Tony Berkeley and his Officers and Brothers for hosting us.

KSG Investiture for Brother Henry Welsh JP KSG IPSK.

Wonderful Mass, great ceremony and very good reception thereafter. Then we retired to Brother Harry's home to continue the celebration. Congratulations Brother Harry KSG.

Unfortunately, Our great friend and Past Supreme Action and Past Supreme Warden Brother George Smith was called to his eternal reward at the end of the evening 24th November.

May His Soul Rest in Peace. Condolences to his family Alex and Laraine. And condolences also to his Council Brothers of Co. 150 Renfrew and WGK Brother James Edmonds.

My wife Anthonia, Daughter Tobi, Sons Timi and Jinmi wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in advance.

With Prayers and Sincere and Fraternal Regards

Brother Michael Akinrele

Supreme Knight

sk@ksc.org.uk

Let Life Flourish



ECCLESIASTICAL ADVISOR

+ Thomas J Neylon



FINANCE

1.Head Office Dues 2024/25

A very special thank you to all Councils who have paid their Head Office dues. At the end of November there was a sum of approximately £25,000 outstanding from a number of Councils in relation to Head Office dues for the current financial year.

It would be very much appreciated if all those Councils with outstanding dues could pay their dues by the 31st December at the very latest. If there is any reason why your Council is unable to pay, please let Mairi in Head Office know as soon as possible.

2.Head Office Dues 2025/26

At the October Supreme Council in Liverpool, it was agreed to increase the Head Office Dues from £62 to £64 for the financial year 2025/26. The increase of £2 in Dues was in line with the rate of inflation. I realise that some Councils have expressed dissatisfaction with this increase in Dues given the financial pressures some elderly Brothers are facing as a result of not receiving the winter fuel allowance. If your Council has a Brother who is struggling financially there is always the option of applying for a Special Needs Allowance to assist that Brother. Financial hardship should never lead to a Brother having to leave the Order

I am hoping that while I am in the post of Finance Director for the Order Head Office Dues will not increase above the rate of inflation. Sadly, as a result of decline in the number of Brothers in the Order in recent years our income base has declined. Consequently, we will have to look at the way we provide our services to our Members and do things more efficiently.

It is planned to send invoices for the new financial year out in early April with a target date of payment by the 31st July.

3.End of Year Reflections

As we come to the end of the calendar year, I thought it would be an opportune time to reflect on the finances of the Order. This has been a difficult year for the Order financially and hopefully 2025 will be a better time for all of us.

As an Order we do not always allocate our resources in the best way possible and sadly sometimes we get it wrong. If you have any ideas on how we can improve matters please get in touch at any time.

Therefore, with less income it is imperative that we trim our cloth accordingly. Despite this we have an opportunity to increase our income in various ways to expand our mission.



A number of options springs to mind:

a. Sale of Grand National draw tickets

This income remains a major resource to allow us to fund projects for our youth and those in need.

The Order has issued 30,000 tickets to Provinces. If you have received too many tickets from your Provincial Officer, please let him know as soon as possible so that he can reallocate the surplus tickets in good time to other Councils. During the Christmas holiday period and season of good will it is an ideal time to sell your allocation of tickets to your family and Parishioners.

b. Making a legacy to the Order

There is always the opportunity of making a legacy to the Order or the Benevolent Fund. In the current year the Order was very fortunate to receive a legacy of just under £10,000 from the family of one our deceased Brothers.

Following the Budget there has been a lot of discussion on the subject of inheritance tax. If you make a legacy to the Order's Central Benevolent Fund (this is where the charitable monies of the Order are held) it will not form part of your taxable inheritance along with any other charitable legacies.

These extra monies, as a result of your generosity will hopefully enable the Order to provide better financial support to Brothers who are struggling financially in any way. If you make a legacy to the Order it will count towards your Inheritance Tax allowance as the Order itself does not have charitable status.

If you would like to know more about the option of making a legacy to the Central Benevolent Fund or the Order, please do not hesitate to email me at any time and I will do my best to assist.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and your family the very best wishes for Christmas and hope that 2025 is a good year for you and your family.

I am very grateful to all those who have supported me in my new role during the past six months, especially Mairi and Clare.

We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us as an Order, in taking forward our Mission, to make wise financial decisions at all times.

Fraternally

Tom Breen
Director for Finance
finance@ksc.org.uk



Development

Brothers, firstly I want to thank and introduce the new Development Committee who met on 19th November. Brothers Tony Berkley (Prov 41), Andrew Burns (Prov 10), James Murphy (Prov 9) Charlie Connor (Prov 1), and John Kenyon (Prov 21). We had our first committee Meeting on 19th November and set ourselves some tasks. The next Meeting is planned for 21st January.

The figures at the Supreme Council stood at 2436 Members of the Order. Whilst this meant the Order shrunk by 64 Members over the year, it is the lowest reduction in many years and means **we are very close to growing the order once again**. We brought in 177 new Brothers and lapsations had dropped from 638 to 173. I am very encouraged by this and also by the start we have made in my first few weeks in the role. See below the recent growth. Let us all ensure it continues.

	<u>October</u>	<u>November (till 24th Nov)</u>
M1 forms	6	13
M2 full Knighthood	0	3
Web Enquiries	9	10
Lapsations	1	1
	<u>14</u>	<u>26</u>

We have had just one Lapsation in the last 7 weeks. I would like to give a special 'shout out' to Southwark (Province 12) who in the last two years brought in 38 & 39 new Brothers respectively. Not only were they the highest recruiters both years but this shows consistency. They have good habits, feel free to ask them how they do it.

As we enter this season of advent let us remember to reach out to any lapsed or non-attending Brothers or to those Brothers without a specific role in our Council. To avoid future lapsation we need to ensure all Brothers feel valued and welcome.

Finally, I would like to wish you, your Council and your family a very happy Christmas.

Faternally

Stephen Ferris
Director for Development
[*development@ksc.org.uk*](mailto:development@ksc.org.uk)



Mission

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA

Mission Bulletin for December 2024

March for Life UK

Thank you to all Brothers who were able to take part in the March for Life in London on Saturday 7th September.

The Assisted Suicide Bill

The top priority for us all during November 2024 has been to act on the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales request that all Catholics should contact their MP ahead of the debate in the House of Commons on Friday 29th November, to express their concerns about the proposed change in the law, and to encourage their MP not to vote for it. The Bill is euphemistically described by its promoters as being about assisted dying, when in reality the issue for us is that it is a Bill about promoting assisted suicide.

Thank you to all Brothers of the Order who wrote to your MPs - your assistance is very much appreciated. You will know by now that the Bill did in fact receive its second reading at the close of the debate on 29th November in the House of Commons, gaining 330 votes in favour, and 275 votes against. The Bill now has to go through Committee and report stages for line by line scrutiny, and then finally to the House of Lords.

Bishop John Sherrington, the Pro-Life, Ethics and Bioethics Lead on the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, issued a statement after the debate, asking that we pray that our MPs will have the wisdom to reject the Bill at a later stage in its progress, raising specific concerns over the weakness of the conscientious objection clauses in the Bill, and re-affirming that improving the quality and availability of palliative care offers the best pathway to reducing suffering at the end of life. Please refer to the full statement on the Bishops' Conference website, at CBCEW > Life Issues > Assisted Suicide > Statement (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/submission-inquiry-assisted-suicide-2023/>) on Second Reading of Assisted Suicide Bill.

It is anticipated that a Bill with similar objectives will be brought forward in the not-too-distant future in the Scottish Parliament.

Advent to Christmastide

We hope that you have all ordered your Keep Christ in Christmas stickers, Christmas posters and Christmas cards. Please issue these as widely as possible. Please also promote the Reverse Advent Calendar and let us all remember those less well off than ourselves in both prayer and practical assistance especially at this time of year.



Please also see below for details of the youth competitions running at this time.

National Action Project

The Order's National Action Project from Supreme Council 2022 to Supreme Council 2024 was "Let the Children Live!". Sadly, this did not realise as big an amount for the Charity as had been hoped.

The National Action Project started at Supreme Council 2024 and running to Supreme Council 2026 is Alma Mater, aimed at assisting young women in need at university. More on this in the New Year.

Good Works of the Order

The surplus raised by our annual Grand National Draw enables the Order to fund projects for Youth and Action. Tickets for our 2025 Draw were issued to Provincial Grand Knights at Supreme Council in October 2024, and we therefore need all Councils to be selling these enthusiastically – **and not just to our own Members!** Please don't be shy about selling these, Brothers. The cash and counterfoils for the Draw need returning to Head Office by Wednesday 19th March 2025.

Youth

The timetable and specifications for all Youth Competitions from Christmas 2024 to the Summer of 2025 were issued to the Order from Head Office in September, together with some publicity materials for Councils to use. Please ensure that you read the specifications for the competitions carefully and publicise these opportunities for our young people to our Schools, Churches and clubs as widely as possible.

The competitions in the immediate future are:-

- Christmas Photography Competition – three age ranges, England and Wales School Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 / Scotland Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7; secondary years England and Wales Years 7, 8 and 9 / Scotland Years S1, S2 and S3; and seniors England and Wales Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 / Scotland S4, S5 and S6. Closing date for the Provinces' **top two** winning entries to reach Head Office is 10th January 2025.
- Nativity Scene Painting Competition – two age ranges, England and Wales School Years Reception and 1-2 / Scotland Primary 1, 2 and 3; and England and Wales School Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 / Scotland Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7. Closing date for the Provinces' **top three** winning entries to reach Head Office is 7th February 2025.

Would Provincial Grand Knights and Youth Officers please set your timetables for the Provincial adjudication of your Council entries received to ensure that the closing dates for your winning entries to reach Head Office are met.



FLAME 2025 – the next Biennial Flame Congress is in the OVO Arena, Wembley on Saturday 15th March 2025. Please support your local Schools and Parishes' needs in helping our young people participate in this event.

Catholic Social Teaching

We will have regular aspects of Catholic Social Teaching and how it relates to the Corporal Works of Mercy in our Bulletins, for action throughout 2025. As thought-starters, appropriate to this time of year and to the sanctity of life, have you considered:-

- Help for your local food bank?
- Assistance to your local homelessness project?
- Support for your local hospice?
- Hot meals during the holidays for school children and their family members?

Inter-Provincial Quiz Competition

This used to be run by an Inter-Provincial Quiz Committee, but the quiz has not been re-started since COVID. The first and second placed trophies are currently held by Loughborough and Chelmsford Councils, and it would be great to see competition for these trophies once again. We therefore hope to have this competition again at some time during the summer of 2025.

A Challenge for Councils

Good programmes of activity, at both the National level and local Council levels, are vital to persuading our fellow Parishioners to join us in the Order, and to achieve this we need to widen our horizons so as to take on new initiatives. So, a challenge for you all is to consider when your Council last undertook a new and different activity from your regular work? Could taking on a new activity be your Council's New Year Resolution for 2025?

Wishing all brothers a holy and happy Christmas, and a fruitful year in your work for the Order in 2025.

Sincerely & Fraternaly
Richard Mitchell,
Director for Mission
mission@ksc.org.uk



Communications

Dear Brothers,

Columba Electronic Magazine

By now you will have received your electronic copy of Columba Magazine. We hope you enjoy reading it. Our apologies it took so long to get out to everyone.

If you need a printable PDF copy please email communications@ksc.org.uk and request a copy. Please tell us if you are printing at home or having it printed professionally as there are two different versions (professional printers require the copy with a bleed)

KSC Email System

Due to changes to the Rules and Constitution of the Order some Director's titles have changed. As a result of this some email addresses have been changed. They have been communicated in an email to the Order and are listed here:

Supreme Knight - Brother Michael Akinrele - sk@ksc.org.uk

Immediate Past Supreme Knight - Brother Henry Welsh - ipsk@ksc.org.uk

Director for Welfare - Brother Barry Johnson - welfare@ksc.org.uk

Director for Finance - Brother Tom Breen - finance@ksc.org.uk

Director for Mission (old Action & Social and Youth Offices combined) - Brother Richard Mitchell - mission@ksc.org.uk

Director for Development (old Membership) - Brother Stephen Ferris - development@ksc.org.uk

Director for Communications (old Media) - Brother Sean Smith - communications@ksc.org.uk

There are also two Directors without Portfolio -

Brother Paul Lovell - director1@ksc.org.uk

Brother Roy Hyde-Linaker - director2@ksc.org.uk

Please ensure that you use the new names when sending emails. In the "To:" or "BCC:" fields (**do not use "cc:"**), once you start typing it will pick up the correct email address for you **when you use the PGK or GK email address assigned to your Province or Council.**

If your Provincial Grand Knight or Council Grand hasn't signed up to the email system, please ask them to do so as soon as possible so they can keep communications throughout the Order.



If your Provincial Grand Knight or Council Grand Knight cannot access emails, it has been ruled that he can ask another Provincial or Council Officer to take over the emails on his behalf. If you are given this responsibility, then you must contact the Director for Communications, on 07786 003737, to get access to the email address for your Province or Council.

We will be holding email system Training for PGKs remaining in Office and PGK-Elects in January (see the January 2025 Bulletin for dates).

FONT CHANGE

After a request from some Brothers, at Supreme Council it was agreed that we will make a change to the font we use in our publications. As of this Bulletin, all printed and published communications will now change to **Tahoma**. This is so that anyone reading our Communications who has sight problems will find them much easier to read. This Bulletin has been produced in Tahoma font to highlight this change. We will endeavour to use 12-point type, but this can be increased to highlight, and we can also use underline and **bold** or *italics* or *a combination of all three* to highlight certain points.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

We are looking for any Brothers who are interested in joining our Committee, please email us for consideration.

Finally, on behalf of the Communications Committee, I would like to wish you, your families and your Council a very Holy and happy Christmas.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

Sean Smith,

Director for Communications

communications@ksc.org.uk



Welfare

SW3 FORMS

Brothers we are still having notifications of Brothers passing away three months after their funerals. The SW3 needs to be sent ASAP to Head Office, who will then inform me and I can send a Memorial card to the late Brothers family.

RELICS TOUR 2025

Next year being a Jubilee year which will open on the first Sunday of Advent the Order has the opportunity to take the Relics of St. Columba, St. Andrew and St. Margeret of Scotland on a tour of the British Isles again.

The Relics will go to each Province for a month, so we have the time to take them to Parishes that were not involved on the last tour.

BIENNIAL MASS FOR DECEASED BROTHERS

The Biennial Mass for Deceased Brothers will be held on Saturday 7th June. It will be held at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool. Mass will commence at 3pm.

2025 being a Year of Pilgrimage it would be great if we could have a big turnout of Brothers, our families and not forgetting our Widows.

DAILY MASS SCHEME

We have received a suggestion from a Province that the scheme be suspended during the month of November. This month being the month of Remembrance many Provinces and Councils are arranging Masses for the Deceased Brothers from their own Councils. Brothers are welcome to send me any comments or feedback on the suggestion.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living has not gone away. The cost of heating homes is going up again in January. Are we still watching out for Brothers who are housebound or frail, many elderly Brothers do not like coming out to Meetings during the darker evenings?

At this time of year, we should be visiting our Widows to ensure that they are well and taking them a Christmas gift.

ROSARIES

After the end of the Spiritual Bouquet that was held in conjunction with SPUC several Brothers have suggested that we continue the weekly Rosary.

Brothers we are prepared to continue but we need support for this. Could we invite family and friends to join us and also our Parishes.

We must continue to pray for the RIGHT TO LIFE, the rights of the unborn are continually under attack. Now there is a Bill going through the House of Commons to allow assisted dying. This is totally against the teaching of the Catholic Church.



Also, some advance notice, early in January the annual White Flower appeal takes place if we are available can we assist.

OBITUARIES

Since the last bulletin, the following have passed to their eternal reward.

Brother Rod O'Neil	Council 151	Province 12
Brother Jon Duss Jenson	Council 984	Province 41
Rev. Fr. Dunstan Harrington	Provincial Chaplain to Province 2 Liverpool	
Brother Michael O'Brian	Council 57	Province 6
Brother Allan Turner	Council 323	Province 21
Brother Des Byrne	Council 584	Province 2
Brother Drolleries Burns	Council 11	Province 45
Brother George Smith	Council 150	Province 1

Just a note from me wishing all Brothers a Merry Christmas and All The Best For The New Year, and to thank you for your support in 2024.

Barry Johnston
Director for Welfare
welfare@ksc.org.uk



DAILY MASS SCHEME

DECEMBER 2024

DAY	DATE	COUNCIL NAME	CO. No.	PROV. No.
Sunday	1st December	Millom	57	6
Monday	2nd December	Cockfosters	500	41
Tuesday	3rd December	Chingford	401	10
Wednesday	4th December	Hayes	243	41
Thursday	5th December	Stockwell	571	12
Friday	6th December	Eastleigh	393	42
Saturday	7th December	Ilkeston	315	9
Sunday	8th December	Wolverhampton	184	18
Monday	9th December	NO MASS	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	
Tuesday	10th December	Blantyre	490	16
Wednesday	11th December	Widnes	18	2
Thursday	12th December	Romford	224	10
Friday	13th December	Renfrew	150	1
Saturday	14th December	Darwen	149	21
Sunday	15th December	Norwich	976	10
Monday	16th December	Redriff	161	12
Tuesday	17th December	Preston East	383	21
Wednesday	18th December	Isle of Man	458	2
Thursday	19th December	Buckley & District	614	2037
Friday	20th December	Cardiff	402	2037
Saturday	21st December	Worcester	344	18
Sunday	22nd December	Honiton Square	637	41
Monday	23rd December	Market Harborough	621	9
Tuesday	24th December	Tenby	979	2037
Wednesday	25th December	NO MASS	CHRISTMAS	
Thursday	26th December	NO MASS		
Friday	27th December	Whitton	970	41
Saturday	28th December	Walthamstow	137	10
Sunday	29th December	Leeds	11	45
Monday	30th December	Isle of Wight	411	42
Tuesday	31st December	Standish	577	8



DAILY MASS SCHEME

JANUARY 2025

DAY	DATE	COUNCIL NAME	CO. No.	PROV. No.
Wednesday	1st January	NO MASS	MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	
Thursday	2nd January	Gravesend	977	12
Friday	3rd January	Crawley	358	34
Saturday	4th January	Burnley	110	21
Sunday	5th January	NO MASS	EPHINANY OF THE LORD	
Monday	6th January	Chelmsford	302	10
Tuesday	7th January	Stirling	40	3
Wednesday	8th January	London South East	117	12
Thursday	9th January	King's Park	396	1
Friday	10th January	Yeading	963	41
Saturday	11th January	Chatham, Essex	418	12
Sunday	12th January	Plymouth	94	42
Monday	13th January	Castlepoint	428	10
Tuesday	14th January	Leek	182	18
Wednesday	15th January	Welwyn Garden City	955	41
Thursday	16th January	Southampton	136	42
Friday	17th January	Sudbury	267	41
Saturday	18th January	Liverpool North	12	2
Sunday	19th January	Challoner, Essex	173	10
Monday	20th January	Browndge	212	2
Tuesday	21st January	Loughborough	197	9
Wednesday	22nd January	Strood	621	12
Thursday	23rd January	Muirhead	525	16
Friday	24th January	Ilford	82	10
Saturday	25th January	Liverpool West	9	2
Sunday	26th January	Clydebank	8	1
Monday	27th January	London South West	128	12
Tuesday	28th January	Willesden Green	404	41
Wednesday	29th January	High Wycombe	422	41
Thursday	30th January	Dearne Valley	538	45
Friday	31st January	St Annes-on-Sea	489	2



Paul Lovell, Director Without Portfolio.

Election to the Board was the first shock of Saturday at Supreme Council. The second was our Council being awarded the Columba Cross.

I hope to be able to help as directed and bring some streamlining into the Order.

My day job is the school's surveyor in the Diocese of Lancaster. I hope some of these skills and contacts are of use to the Order.

I'm married with two children and have held Treasurer, Secretary, GK and PGK posts since joining the order in 2008. My base is Carlisle.

Fraternally

Paul Lovell
Director without Portfolio 1
director1@ksc.org.uk