



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

THE BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025

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.



Hope Faith Joy Love



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The Supreme Knight

My Lord Bishop and Dear Worthy Brothers,

A lot of work is happening to put us in better shape to manage the future of our Order with Finance, Our own data management, Communication within the Order, Communication with the world outside with better use of all the platforms that we have already. We need to ensure that we respectfully carry out some of the actions that we have asked the Provinces and Councils to carry out both Province wide and Council wide.

Our Hierarchy are our biggest supporters, and we need to improve our relationship with them a thousand-fold. We need to inform them at Diocesan Level of what is going on in the Order. We need to create a page for them on our own website. We should ensure we highlight their membership as Members of Honour in our promotional materials as well as during our lectern addresses and when we are one on one with a potential Gentleman who is considering joining our Order.

Relic Tour is going well with the 3 Relics currently touring Scotland in Provinces 3 Edinburgh and St Andrews, Province 1 Glasgow and finally Province 16 Motherwell before crossing the Border into Northern England, into Wales then back to England again making it's way south to finish at Westminster. Let us promote the impending arrival by informing our Hierarchy, by informing the local Parishes to the location of the Parish in which the Relic will be visiting.

Let us be positive Brothers in moving ahead. But let us also be sure that it is not business as usual. We have to pivot to better promotion, better communication, better visibility.

Worthy PGK's, please expect a call to have a meeting with the SK. I want to meet up with you regularly. Please let us all work together to build a better tomorrow for ourselves and our Youth and Young People.

Communication with Parish Priests, Parishioners, Diocese, Deanery, Provinces, Councils and Brothers.

Celebration of our Brothers.

Recruitment,

Reclamation

Training at All Levels.



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We need to remove assumptions from our Order and ensure that knowledge is widespread. Then repeat it and repeat it.

My Lord Bishop, IPSK, Dep.SK, WSD's PSK's and WPGK's, WGK's and Worthy Brothers and Your families. Let us make this a year to fulfil all our possibilities pray God.

With Prayers and Sincere and Fraternal Regards

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



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Our Ecclesiastical Advisor

'THE HEALTH IS THE WEALTH'

As we enter the second month of the New Year, I hope you and your loved ones have managed to navigate the extremes of weather that we have experienced across our countries in the past few weeks. A friend of mine who lives on the west coast of Ireland has an interesting story to tell and his daughter who lives in Galway has an even more interesting one! Thankfully, Roisin and her family are safe and well. After a previous weather event they installed a generator which came into play when 114mph/hour winds were recorded at Mace Head. We are learning to adapt to the extremes that we are experiencing.

To cut a long story short I have been fitted with a pacemaker. I had a blackout in September and after a series of tests during the autumn I was fitted with the device on 27 December. I am resting up after the procedure. With the help of the good people who work for the NHS, my family, friends, fellow Clergy and the prayers of many I am managing to navigate my way through.

I have a couple of appointments this month and these will give me an indication of how things are going. Please keep me in your prayers.

With my prayers and best wishes

+Tom





FINANCE

1. Financial Update

1. Capital Gains Tax update

I am pleased to report that we have recently received advice from our auditors, Azets, previously known as Milne Craig, that we will not be liable for Capital Gains tax following the sale of our former headquarters on Hillington Road. As we acquired the asset in 1983, we are able to index the asset over a number of years and this will help to offset any liability to capital gains we might otherwise have had to incur. This is very welcome news for the Order at the present time.

2. Grand National Draw

As we get nearer to the closing date for the return of Grand National Draw tickets, please do your very best to ensure that all the tickets that have been allocated to your Council are sold. This is a major source of income for the Order.

This additional income will enable us to fund urgent Action and Youth projects in the coming months.

3. Head Office Dues

On a very positive note, I would like to offer a special thank you to all Councils that have recently paid their Head Office Dues.

The level of dues outstanding at the end of January amounted to just over £7,500 and it is hoped to reduce this figure further this month. This outcome will enable us hopefully to improve the Order's cash flow in the new financial year.

4. Annual Accounts of the Order

I am pleased to report that the Annual accounts of the Order's Charity, the Central Benevolent Fund were lodged with OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) by the due date. Discussions are ongoing with the Order's auditors in relation the Order's Accounts for the financial year 2023/24 and it is hoped to conclude this matter in the very near future.

5. Finance Audit and Risk Committee

Following the changes to the Order's Rules and Constitution the name of the Finance Committee has been altered to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The Committee has taken on an expanded role and now looks at the risks facing the Order and what action can be taken to help mitigate these risks.

The Committee meets usually once a month and includes the following Members:

- Brother Tom Breen, Supreme Director for Finance- Chairman
- Bro Bertie Grogan Past Supreme Knight- Secretary
- Brother Ron Lynch, Past Supreme Knight
- Brother Ray Peeling, Past Provincial Grand Knight, Province 2
- Brother Liam Rand, Provincial Grand Knight Province 10





The Order is very anxious to ensure that we use our resources in the most effective manner and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee welcomes contributions from its members. If you have any ideas on how we can achieve better value for money for the Order as it takes forward its Mission, please feel free to share your ideas with any member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee or myself at anytime.

While the concept of Artificial Intelligence and new technology frightens most of us it also provides opportunities on how we can do things differently and more effectively. We all have seen many changes in recent years and we need to see how the Order can benefit in this area.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all those who have been elected as Treasurers for the current financial year I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the Order of wishing you all the very best in carrying out this important role for your Council and the Order.

It is planned to organise training sessions in the coming financial year so that we can learn from each other and aim to achieve best practice.

Fraternally

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



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Development

Brothers, as I write this (25th January) we stand at 2402 Members of our Order. Whilst this is slightly down from the 2436 that I inherited in October, please bear in mind we have had a large number of Deaths and Lapsations over the Christmas period. I am encouraged by the number of new Brothers and web enquiries we have received.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Number of new Brothers (M1 forms) | 33 |
| Number of web enquiries | 43 |
| Lapsations | 28 |

I must stress the importance of following up quickly on web enquiries*. Please contact them within 3 days and thank them for their inquiry and try to find out a little about them. Send them information and invite them to a meeting.

Last I heard, Province 10 had 5 new M1 forms to send over soon, Province 18 have at least 7 new Brothers coming through and Province 12 had an initiation ceremony planned on 26th January that includes Clement Garval, a recent web enquiry!! In fact the 6 web enquiries passed to them, 3 men have now joined.

Lapsations - This is a silent killer for Membership and should only be considered as a very last resort. No Brother should leave the Order because of Dues payment. If a Brother has not attended a Meeting, without sending apologies, the Council Welfare Officer should make contact. Find out why and show some concern for his circumstances.

Training workshop on 17th May - The Development committee met recently and plans to hold a Saturday morning Development Training Workshop, on Saturday 17th May 9am-10.30am. We will invite all Membership Officers, Grand Knights and PGKs. Topics on the agenda include;

- The role of the Membership Officer.
- How to recruit & the tools available.
- The follow up - timings and methods.
- Retention - How to keep Brothers interested and active.
- Reclamation - How can we reconnect with Brothers we have lost. Such as Birthday cards, Deceased Members Mass, etc

Initiation Posters - Please ensure that we advertise across our Parishes, when new Knights are being initiated and elevated.

Initiation packs - Head Office have a stock of Initiation packs. These are for new Brothers joining the Order. Please order them in advance of recruitment drives, or as soon as a new M1 form is completed.





Development web page - We plan to update the webpage very soon and will be sending an automatic enquiry response to web enquiries to find out how they heard about us and stating they should expect a response from us within 72 hours.

New Brothers who have joined the Order recently:

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|
| 7 th January 2025 – John Case | Council 127 – Birmingham | Province 18 |
| 22 nd January 2025 – Albert Osijo | Council 937 – Basildon | Province 10 |
| 22 nd January 2025 – Manuel Azwedo | Council 248 – Edmonton | Province 41 |
| 22 nd January 2025 – Christopher Lyth | Council 29 – Middlesbrough | Province 4 |
| 22 nd January 2025 – Peter Carter | Council 324 – Brighton | Province 34 |

Fraternally

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



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Mission

National Action Project - Alma Mater

We need our Councils to have at least one fundraising endeavour each year for National Action Projects. As an example, with around 200 Councils and assuming 150 reasonably active ones, an average surplus of £200 on these events could get the project £30,000 a year. Even at our current numbers that should be a reasonable target.

There are two key items of work currently under way. Good publicity materials that Councils can use to help promote their local initiatives for this project are in the course of preparation by SPUC's Alma Mater team. The other is the tidying up our own Membership database, which it was hoped could be achieved by 25th January, which would enable SPUC to circulate details of the project electronically to individual Members. (The personal information involved in this would be restricted to this project only, and not be available to SPUC's wider subscriber database.)

Youth Competitions

The Christmas Photography competition has now closed, and contributing Provinces are thanked for their efforts. The Christmas Painting winning entries from Provinces are due at Head Office by 7th February 2025.

The next competitions are the 2025 Easter Painting and Photography Competitions. The top three Easter Painting entries for each age grade from each Province are due at Head Office by 2nd May 2025, and the top two Photography entries for each age grade are due at Head Office by 16th May 2025.

The Prayer and Essay Writing Competitions entries are due to Head Office by 30th May 2025.

Flame 2025

Flame 2025 is at Wembley on Saturday 15th March, and is almost fully subscribed, so if you have any additional candidates whom you wish to assist to participate in this, would you please do so very quickly.

Surplus from the Grand National Draw

Tickets and remittances for this year's draw are due back to Head Office by 19th March 2025. This annual draw enables the Order to fund projects for Youth and Action, so it is imperative that all our Councils sell these enthusiastically – **and not just to our own members.** Provincial and Council Grand Knights are therefore asked to ensure that this need is given a high priority in all our Councils.





Please note that there is no funding for these activities assumed in the calculation of our member's dues to Head Office.

Assisted Suicide Legislation

The next stage in the progress of the Assisted Suicide Legislation relating to England and Wales ("The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill") is evidence gathering by the House of Commons Committee examining the Bill. Bishop Sherrington will be submitting written evidence, and individuals and interested organisations can submit written evidence. Further details can be found at:-

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2025/january/terminally-ill-adults-end-of-life-bill-call-for-evidence>

We are asked to keep up our contacts with our local MPs as the bill proceeds through its Committee and Report stages.

IACK – Michael Bell Awards

IACK have asked member Orders for submissions of individuals and / or organisations who could be considered for receipt of a Michael Bell Award for their pro-Life work. Br Michael Bell was a Supreme Advocate of the Knights of St Columba for a considerable number of years. This is the first time since before Covid that we have been asked to make nominations, and the citations need to be submitted to IACK by 1st March 2025, **via our Supreme Knight**. Please note that the nominations for consideration for the award need to be for major contributions to the pro-Life cause, and should not include previous winners, so we are not expecting a huge number of citations.

Catholic Social Teaching

A development for 2025 is to have a focus within the Order on Catholic Social Teaching and the Corporal Works of Mercy, and this started in January. The February topic will be circulated, and followed up at monthly intervals with the subsequent topics.

CSAN (The Catholic Social Action Network) is running an online course over Tuesdays in March + 1st April 2025 "Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction". For details please see:-

www.csan.org.uk/catholic-social-teaching-an-introduction-course

Holy Week Poster Campaign

Please support this year's campaign, details to be issued separately.



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The Order's Emergency Relief Fund

Councils are asked to please contribute some of your fundraising efforts this year to re-establish our Emergency Relief Fund. In the past our Councils were very generous in supporting this cause, and receiving contributions to this fund enables the order to respond speedily with early donations to causes and areas in need of emergency assistance.

Doing something new and different

As an example, Council 551 Guildford and District are hosting a talk at St Dunstan's, Woking, on Saturday afternoon 1st March on the story behind Wintershall's open air biblical plays near Bramley in Surrey, with proceeds from this event going towards support of the Wintershall productions and the Council's charitable works. For tickets for this please see:-

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/guildford-district-knights-of-st-columba>

<http://www.ticketsource.co.uk> (search "Wintershall")

Golf Weekend

We will be holding our Annual Golf Tournament Weekend on 29th to 31st March 2025 at:

Hill Valley Golf Club, 4 Terrick Road, Whitchurch, SY13 4JZ

£150 Per Person (2 sharing) or Single supplement of £70 (£220)

2 Nights B&B and evening meal

3 rounds of Golf

To book – call Henry Welsh on 07527 515254 or email ipsk@ksc.org.uk

Sincerely & Fraternaly

Richard Mitchell,

Director for Mission

mission@ksc.org.uk



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Communications

Dear Brothers,

Columba Magazine

We have now set dates on when you will need to get articles in for Columba Magazine. Please make a note of these dates.

Please also remember that, if you require additional copies for Members of Honour, Clergy or Widows, now is the time to get those details to us. We have attached a Form to this Bulletin for you to send to Head Office with those details. Please remember that these additional copies will be charged to your Council Invoices and will have to be paid. The cost of £6 will be for 2 copies per year in line with the copies to be received by Brothers.

Dates for Article submission – 21st February 2025

Dates for Extra Columba Form Submissions – 7th February 2025

Anything received after these dates will not be applied until the Summer/Autumn Edition of Columba Magazine, but will be charged at the same price.

KSC Email System

We have held two sessions of Email System Training for existing and PGK-elects in December and January.

We appreciate all the PGKs that attended.

We are now setting dates for Grand Knights to attend their Email System Training Sessions. These will be run on the dates below. **Do not worry if you miss your slot! Please join any Session that is available. We will run a total of 8 Sessions (4 in February/March and 4 more in March/April) so that everyone is given the chance to attend.**

Councils in Provinces 1, 2, 3, 45, 6, 8 – Tuesday 11th February 2025

Councils in Provinces 6, 8, 9, 10 – Tuesday 18th February 2025

Councils in Provinces 12, 16, 18, 2037 – Tuesday 25th February 2025

Councils in Provinces 21, 34, 38, 41, 42 – Tuesday 4th March 2025

If your Grand Knight does not have a @ksc.org.uk email address, or if he cannot access such a system then please do one of the following:

- Ask your Grand Knight to contact the Communications Director on 07786 003737
- Ask your Grand Knight to nominate someone within your Council to contact the Communications Director on 07786 003737 so that this can be set up for your Council.



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Not having a @ksc.org.uk email for your Council means that your Brothers are missing out on important information!

News Knight

The News Knight for February is being produced and will be sent out to all Councils in a separate email.

If you have not received this by the end of February, please contact us so that we have the correct person responsible for sending this out to your Council.

If your Province or Council holds an annual Pilgrimage, please let us know what dates these will happen in 2025.

There are now a few reasons why we need to know.

Firstly, we can advertise these on the KSC website! We can advertise these in Knights News! And possibly more importantly – **we can have Being Catholic TV come to your Pilgrimage and video and livestream the Pilgrimage for you.**

Brothers let's show the WORLD what we do and what we do so very, very well!! This is your opportunity to shine! And by doing so we can grow this Order beyond our wildest dreams. **Don't let this great opportunity slip through your hands!**

Relic Tour 2025

All PGKs will have received the dates on when they will receive the Relics in your area. Please let us know well in advance where the Relics are going to be venerated.

We will need to know

- Date
- Church Name
- Church Address
- Full name and address of PGK (or whoever is organising the Relics in your Province) so that we can post the Posters to him.
- Number of posters required (if more than 6!)

Once we have these details we will design, print and send to your PGK bespoke Posters for your area so that you can advertise the Relics beforehand. **We are currently sending out 6 Posters per Province. If your Province would like more than 6 please let us know when you send through the details so that we can send you what you need.**

New Theme for 2025 – I am sure you will have noticed in this Bulletin, that the theme for 2025/2026 has been changed. We no longer use "Faith, Family, Fraternity" and now will use "Hope Faith Joy Love" in line with the Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope.

Sincerely & Fraternally

Sean Smith,

Director for Communications

communications@ksc.org.uk



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Welfare

Relics Tour

The Relics Tour commenced in Province 3 Edinburgh on January 6th, after visiting several Churches in the Province they are now in Province1 Glasgow.

They will then be taken to Province 16 Motherwell and after a tour of the Province will cross the Border into Province 6 Cumbria. Could Brothers who have taken pictures please let us have a copy.

Pilgrims of Hope Rosary

Our Pilgrims of Hope Rosary has now been moved to 7.30pm on Thursday evenings. This is to allow Brothers who are working time to arrive home and join the Rosary, the Rosary will continue throughout the Holy Year. The **Zoom ID is 895 3351 1576** and the **Passcode is 856705**, these codes are for the full year. Posters can be printed for Brothers to place in Churches and schools, please inform your Chaplains and Priests and of course invite family and friends.

HOLY YEAR 2025

One of the main events this HOLY YEAR is the Biennial Mass. This Mass will be celebrated on Saturday June 7th in The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool. The Order has a Guest joining us more details to follow. The Mass will commence at 3pm.

Could we please have a substantial number of Brothers and their Families there. Please do not forget to invite the Widows of our Deceased Brothers.

During this HOLY YEAR, many Pilgrimages will be taking place throughout England, Scotland and Wales, could Brothers please join in.

The Welfare Committee are also looking at the possibility of a Pilgrimage to Iona, it is a few years since the last one. Costs will be available soon.

Welfare Facebook Page

A Facebook page has been created so that Brothers can put Prayer requests on. Also, if there are no objections from their families the passing of a Brother can be published. This is because sometimes when the Obituary is published in the Bulletin the funeral has already taken place.





OBITUARIES SINCE THE LAST BULLETIN

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------|
| Brother Charles Snowden | 23/11/24 | Council 358 | Province 34. |
| Brother Peter Dance | 14/12/24 | Council 344 | Province 18 |
| Brother Joseph Cunningham | 16/12/24 | Council 150 | Province 1 |
| Brother Brian Evans | 30/12/24 | Council 151 | Province 12 |
| Brother Michael Daley | 23/12/24 | Council 225 | Province 42 |
| Brother Paul Carey | 11/01/25 | Council 499 | Province 42 |
| Brother Cuthbert Culshaw | 25/12/24 | | |

Brother Cuthbert was IPPGK Province 7 unfortunately no SW3 attached to the email

Brothers Wives

Mrs. Angela Marie Smith 15/01/25
Mrs. Smith was the Widow of Brother Alan Smith Council 223 Province 18.
Mrs. Mary Carmel 06/01/25
Mrs. Carmel was the Widow of Brother Tom Carmel Council 232 Province 42
Please remember the above in your prayers.

MAY THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

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



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DAILY MASS SCHEME

APRIL 2025

| DAY | DATE | COUNCIL NAME | Co. No. | Prov. No. |
|------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Tuesday | 1st April | Streatham | 266 | 12 |
| Wednesday | 2nd April | Southend | 192 | 10 |
| Thursday | 3rd April | Plymouth | 94 | 42 |
| Friday | 4th April | Palmers Green | 261 | 41 |
| Saturday | 5th April | Basingstoke | 169 | 42 |
| Sunday | 6th April | Middlesbrough | 29 | 45 |
| Monday | 7th April | Glasgow Central | 22 | 1 |
| Tuesday | 8th April | Nottingham | 67 | 9 |
| Wednesday | 9th April | Dagenham | 291 | 10 |
| Thursday | 10th April | Croydon | 974 | 12 |
| Friday | 11th April | Brendesbury | 240 | 41 |
| Saturday | 12th April | Bedford | 338 | 38 |
| Sunday | 13th April | No Mass | PALM SUNDAY | |
| Monday | 14th April | Sutton Coldfield | 293 | 18 |
| Tuesday | 15th April | Carfin | 246 | 16 |
| Wednesday | 16th April | Accrington | 188 | 21 |
| Thursday | 17th April | No Mass | MAUNDY THURSDAY | |
| Friday | 18th April | No Mass | GOOD FRIDAY | |
| Saturday | 19th April | No Mass | HOLY SATURDAY | |
| Sunday | 20th April | No Mass | EASTER SUNDAY | |
| Monday | 21st April | Anfield | 493 | 2 |
| Tuesday | 22nd April | Hull | 45 | 45 |
| Wednesday | 23rd April | Manchester | 104 | 8 |
| Thursday | 24th April | Worcester Park | 328 | 12 |
| Friday | 25th April | Hanwell | 163 | 41 |
| Saturday | 26th April | Upminster | 397 | 10 |
| Sunday | 27th April | Poole | 232 | 42 |
| Monday | 28th April | Honerton | 968 | 41 |
| Tuesday | 29th April | Menevia | 253 | 2037 |
| Wednesday | 30th April | Brighton | 277 | 34 |



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DAILY MASS SCHEME

MAY 2025

| DAY | DATE | COUNCIL NAME | CO. No. | PROV. No. |
|------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Thursday | 1st May | Isle of Sheppey | 625 | 12 |
| Friday | 2nd May | Carlisle | 60 | 6 |
| Saturday | 3rd May | King's Lynn | 319 | 10 |
| Sunday | 4th May | Paignton | 329 | 42 |
| Monday | 5th May | Penwortham | 468 | 21 |
| Tuesday | 6th May | Medway | 151 | 12 |
| Wednesday | 7th May | Horwich | 125 | 8 |
| Thursday | 8th May | Paisley & District | 429 | 1 |
| Friday | 9th May | Jersey | 216 | 42 |
| Saturday | 10th May | Observatory | 123 | 12 |
| Sunday | 11th May | Whitehaven | 74 | 6 |
| Monday | 12th May | Uxbridge | 399 | 41 |
| Tuesday | 13th May | Blackpool | 91 | 21 |
| Wednesday | 14th May | St Albans | 320 | 41 |
| Thursday | 15th May | Blackburn | 132 | 21 |
| Friday | 16th May | Glasgow West | 2 | 1 |
| Saturday | 17th May | Farnborough | 185 | 42 |
| Sunday | 18th May | Manchester North | 172 | 8 |
| Monday | 19th May | West Norwood | 356 | 12 |
| Tuesday | 20th May | Southport | 146 | 2 |
| Wednesday | 21st May | Bournemouth | 139 | 42 |
| Thursday | 22nd May | Harrow | 295 | 41 |
| Friday | 23rd May | Lincoln | 142 | 9 |
| Saturday | 24th May | Ealing | 369 | 41 |
| Sunday | 25th May | Arsenal | 118 | 12 |
| Monday | 26th May | Bognor Regis | 324 | 34 |
| Tuesday | 27th May | Viewpark | 474 | 16 |
| Wednesday | 28th May | Ipswich | 206 | 10 |
| Thursday | 29th May | Aberdeen | 88 | 3 |
| Friday | 30th May | Colne | 258 | 21 |
| Saturday | 31st May | Lessness Abbey | 380 | 12 |



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