

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

THE BULLETIN

APRIL 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.



INDEX

CORRESPONDENCE FROM:	PAGE NO.
The Supreme Knight	3 – 4
Our Ecclesiastical Advisor	5
Finance	6 – 7
National Action Project Update	8
Development	9
Mission	10 - 11
Communications	12 - 14
Spirituality & Welfare	15 - 16
Daily Mass Scheme for May 2025	17
Daily Mass Scheme for June 2025	18



The Supreme Knight

My Lord Bishop and Dear Worthy Brothers,

Firstly, wishing you all a delightful Easter filled with hope, joy and the wonder of God's blessings.

Congratulations to all WPGKs, Provincial Officers, WGK and Council Officers who have demitted Office. Thank you for your service. Congratulations to all those WPGK, Provincial Officers, WGK and Council Officers who have just been elected to Office. I want to welcome you all and wish you all well in your tenure of Office. We at the Supreme Level are there to support you. We will organise training as will some of your Provinces and Councils.

We are making slow but steady progress in providing the data request to Head Office. It is much slower than I had anticipated when we made the request. This will have a knock-on effects in so many areas. It shows we have challenges that we must overcome in the administrative area. Pray God it will only be this year, and we will be better prepared near the end of this calendar year. This request has given some WPGK a better understanding of their Provinces and the Councils within. Good that some good has come of it, but we need to make any gains from the necessary exercise permanently.

Please continue to communicate the Relic Tour to your Bishops without delay, especially if you are next or are yet to start the Tour. It is unforgivable for our Hierarchy not to be aware of our Relic Tour before it starts to go across their Diocese. Communicate the Poster of the Rosary to your Bishops and ask them to consider leading the Rosary on a Thursday. Then we need to promote the fact to the Bishops and Parishes to inform them their Bishop will be leading our Rosary.

Sincere thanks to all who have had the responsibility of managing the Relic Tour and forwarding the pictures and incredible responses of the Catholic Faithful to Head Office. Please don't forget to forward any and all responses. Incredible so far, let us keep this up. Communicate your nominated Parishes to Communication Dept as advised so your Posters can be prepared.

16th March 2025, St John the Evangelist Gravesend, Province 12 Southwark Full Knighthood Ceremony. I had the great honour and privilege of raising 10 Brothers to Full Knighthood with WPGK Brother Patrick Boyle PhD. Celebrant, Deanery Dean and Council Chaplain Fr Moses Amune MSP MOH was fantastic with his recruitment speech to the Parishioners throughout the whole event. This Mass was arranged by the Council to be a Mass for my intention.



23RD March 2025, Good Shepherd, Downham. My Council, Council 200 Bromley of Province 12 Southwark honoured me by booking a Thanksgiving Mass at my own Parish with reception afterwards in one of our two large Halls. An A3 Certificate was presented by my WGK Brother Cornelius Ebirilem and a plague was presented by our Celebrant, my Parish Priest Canon John Kavanagh the son of a Knight of St Columbanus. Canon John gave us a tremendous recruitment speech at different times throughout Mass. My Good Lady Wife Abosede Anthonia was ever present by my side during the presentations. Thank you to Past Director Brother Melvin Carty for attending in support. Thanks to all Brothers of Council 200 Bromley. And all Brothers from Co.977 and family, Brothers from Co.117 Peckham, Co.978 Abbey Wood, Co.380 Lessness Abbey. Thank you to my extended family members and thank you to my Parish family for their welcome and congratulatory messages.

Please, Brothers, a word of advice. Kindly ensure that you record all your Meetings, especially those of consequence. Do so for accuracy, do so for posterity.

- Communication with Parish Priests, Parishioners, Diocese, Deanery, Provinces, **Councils and Brothers.**
- Celebration of our Brothers.
- Recruitment.
- Reclamation.
- Training at All Levels.

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

"To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our "conventions", those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralysing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope." Pope Francis, Homily, 31st March 2018

Anthonia, myself, Tobi, Timi and Jinmi wish you and your families a holy and happy Eastertide.

With Prayers and Sincere and Fraternal Regards

Brother Michael Akinrele Supreme Knight

sk@ksc.org.uk





ECCLESIASTICAL ADVISOR

It is lovely to see blue skies, lengthening hours of day light and to feel the warmth of the sun. Dare we say Spring has arrived?

As our spirits rise, and we begin to feel a bit more energetic, we are conscious that there are many who are suffering throughout the world. We have probably found that our Prayer list has got longer during the past months.

From what we hear in the Gospels the Disciples and the Women who followed Jesus throughout Galilee had difficulty recognising Him when he appeared to them after being raised from the dead.

One of the features of the cause of so much suffering in our world is the failure to recognise the God-given human dignity of each other. In denouncing, wounding or killing others we are in danger of overlooking the truth that each one of us who inhabit the earth is created in the image and likeness of God.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus forgave those who mocked, scourged and killed him. He broke the cycle of violence because of his desire to unite all humanity with his Father in Heaven. As we are graced with faith in the Risen Lord may we also recognise the dignity of all women, children and men throughout the World.

I wish you and yours a Happy Easter and every blessing as we bear witness to the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

+ Tom Neylon





FINANCE

Financial Update

1. Grand National Draw

Thanks to all Brothers who bought and sold tickets for this year's Grand National Draw. The draw will take place as planned on the 1st April and the race will be run at Aintree on Saturday, the 5th of April. All monies received from the draw will be spent solely on projects in the new financial year.

2. Membership Dues-2024/25

I would like to offer a special thank you to all Councils who have paid their Membership Dues in the past month.

The level of Dues outstanding in mid-March amounted to less than 2% of the sum invoiced and it is hoped to reduce this sum further. A thank you to all who helped to reduce the amount outstanding and especially Mairi at Head Office and the Supreme Knight for all the energy they put into this task.

3. Membership Dues-2025/26

The Membership Dues for the new financial year have been set at £64. This increase from £62 to £64, represents an increase of £2, just over 3% and is in line with the current rate of inflation.

Membership data details were sent to all Provinces in February this year asking them to validate their data. At the current time only seven Provinces of a total of seventeen have sent their completed Membership data returns to Head Office.

It is planned to issue invoices for Membership Dues for the financial year 2025/26 in the first week of April.

An email will be sent to all Councils in early April giving detailed guidance.

Sadly, in the past too many Councils have complained that they have not received their invoice at the appropriate time. It is planned to send a copy of all Council invoices raised to the Provincial Grand Knight in early April.

It is hoped that the new guidance and the early issuing of invoices to all Councils will see a marked improvement in the Order's cash flow in the new financial year.

It is envisaged that invoices for Membership Dues will be paid by the end of May 2025.

A follow up reminder will be sent to Councils with outstanding Dues in early June.



FINANCE

4. Loan to the Central Benevolent Fund

I am pleased to report that a payment of £140,000 from the proceeds of the sale of Hillington has been made to the Order's Central Benevolent Fund.

This payment has reduced the loan outstanding to the Central Benevolent Fund from £210,000 at the 31^{st} March 2024 to £70,000 at the present time.

5. New Financial Year.

As we come to the end of another financial year, we hope that the new financial year will be a better year for the Order going forward.

It is hoped that the New Financial Year will see

- a. A better understanding by Members of the key financial issues impacting on the Order.
- b. Brothers are able to make better use of the monies held by the Central Benevolent Fund for their Brothers facing hardship or are in need.
- c. An expansion in the number of Brothers joining the Order.

I would like to thank all Brothers, in particular Council and Provincial Treasurers for their help in keeping the Order's finances in a healthy shape in their local area and hoping that all runs smoothly for them in the new financial year.

Fraternally

Tom Breen Director for Finance <u>finance@ksc.org.uk</u>



Alma Mater Update

Dear Brothers

We are now coming up to six months of the NAP - could all PGKs who have not returned the money for the 20 calendars that they received please do so asap.

Hopefully you will be organising fundraising events for the Project.

One suggestion is an online quiz. If you are interested, please contact me and let me know and we can organise it.

Brothers, remember, if you require any information or more leaflets or baby bottles or if you would like someone to come and talk to a group about Alma Mater then please contact Margaret Akers at SPUC (**not Head Office, they do not have these**):

margaretakers@spuc.org.uk.

Let us make this a big success.

Fraternally

Henry Welsh JP KSG ipsk@ksc.org.uk





Development

Dear Brothers,

New Brothers - We had guite a few new Brothers join us in March including; six from Province 12, four from Province 34, four from Province 10 and two from Province 18. Welcome Brothers!

New enquiries - We are averaging at 8 - 10 web enquiries per month and we soon be adding an extra section to the Enquiry form to ask how they heard of us. Then we can target our strategy even more. Please follow up all enquiries within 72 hours!

New Committee member - Welcome to Brother Pius Chinyere Akubue who has joined our Team. Brother Pius is based in Southwark, Province 12. He will be a great asset to us.

Lapsations - Whilst these have reduced, we still need to work hard to keep Brothers involved. We are starting to write to any Brother that leaves the Order to find out why and ask them to reconsider. I received a couple of Lapsation Forms recently giving 'poor health' as the reason, so I want to remind everyone what the Knights offer when any declining health arrives:

- Firstly, prayers for you and your family during your health issues.
- Regular contact and support.
- Financial assistance and visits if needed.
- Then when you pass to your Eternal Reward, we offer to provide a Knights final salute, prayers for you and your family, regular ongoing contact and support for the Widow.
- Your name goes into the Remembrance Book in Liverpool which gets Venerated at the Biennial Masses.
- We also read out your name and pray for you on each Anniversary of your Passing, etc. So, to resign due to health does seem strange, so I encourage all Brothers and Councils - please avoid Lapsation at all costs.

Training Workshop - A reminder that we are doing training on Saturday 17th May 9am-10.30am which will be ideal for new and existing Membership Officers. Can I ask all M & D Officers to attend please. GK's welcome. Zoom codes to be sent out nearer the time.

If you are interested in joining our Committee, please let me know.

Fraternally

Stephen Ferris Director for Development development@ksc.org.uk





Mission

Assisted Suicide Legislation

The Third Reading in the House of Commons of the Assisted Suicide Legislation relating to England and Wales ("The Terminally III Adults (End of Life) Bill") is expected to be on 25th April 2025.

We need to protect the vulnerable in our society, and it is therefore essential that we all keep up our contacts with our local MPs (by E-Mail, letter, or by personal appointment) in the remaining time available, right up to 25th April. There are also various tools by which you can ask your MP to vote "No" to Assisted Suicide at the Third Reading, on Right to Life, SPUC and the Catholic Union of Great Britain websites – but note that the personal and individual interactions with your MP are the more likely to register.

The Catholic Union of Great Britain is holding a webinar "Hard Cases Don't Make Good Law" on this Bill at 6.30pm on Thursday 3rd April 2025, chaired by Baroness Sheila Hollins and with three medical experts – I recommend Brothers to sign up for this.

Please go to www://catholicunion.org.uk/eventscalendar/

Please also refer to the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (https://www.cbcew.org.uk/news) for an interview with Bishop John Sherrington on this Bill.

The latest news at time of writing (26th March) is that the implementation time for the Bill to become effective, if passed, looks to be extended from two years to up to four years.

Courage to be Catholic

Aid to the Church in Need held a Scottish Catholic Conference, "Courage to be Catholic", on Saturday 29th March at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, at which we took two exhibitor places. Thank you to Brothers Charlie Connor and John Agbonrofo of Province 1 Glasgow who were the lead Scottish organizer and exhibitors respectively for the Order's input to this event.

Youth Competitions

The next competitions are the 2025 Easter Painting and Photography Competitions. The closing date for the top three Easter Painting entries for each age grade from each Province to be at Head Office has been extended to 16th May 2025, and the top two Photography entries for each age grade are also due at Head Office by 16th May 2025.

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



Christian Leadership Formation Programme

This is a programme for students, currently in Year 12 / Lower Sixth / S5, who are actively committed to their faith; who are intellectually gifted; and who are committed to shaping a Christian Society. Please search for "Christian Leadership Formation Programme" for full details and note that applications for this year's programme have to be in by 16th April 2025.

The first module is booked for Tuesday 5th August to Sunday 10th August 2025 and is at Stonyhurst College. Please consider financially supporting students whom you know, who meet the criteria and who could benefit from this programme; there are also Bursaries available for the programme for families who cannot afford the full cost of £400 for the first module.

Surplus from the Grand National Draw

This Annual Draw enables the Order to fund Projects for Youth and Action, so I am hoping that all your efforts this year will have resulted in increased sales and therefore an increased net surplus available to fund good works of the Order that are not capable of being funded from Council and Provincial levels.

Catholic Social Teaching

One of the developments 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 April topic is attached to this Bulletin.

Sincerely & Fraternally

Richard Mitchell Director for Mission mission@ksc.org.uk



COMMUNICATIONS

Columba Magazine

By the time you read this missive, Columba Magazine is in the print stage and will very soon be posted out to everyone.

Have you requested additional copies? If not, why not?

This year we would like to introduce the Columba Magazine Recycling Program. What does this entail? What happens to all the Columba Magazines we have delivered to Brothers over the years? Where are they now? What do you do when you have finished with your copy?

If you are putting it in the bin once you have read it (and we do hope that it was in the recycling??), please don't do that anymore! Why not bring them all to your next Council Meeting and then distribute them to your Widows and Members of Honour. Why not leave a copy or 2 or 3 at a local Church?

Columba Magazine is one of our greatest ever advertising tools! It shows the Catholic Community what we as Knights do. You never know, someone who reads your old copy of our Magazine may want to join your Council!

Why not keep some copies ready to be distributed at your next Recruitment Drive? Again, this can gain great interest and possible new Members for your Council.

So please pass on your copies of Columba Magazine once you have read them!

Please remember that articles must be sent to columba.magazine@ksc.org.uk ANY ARTICLES SENT TO communications@ksc.org.uk WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED!

KSC Email System

In the last Bulletin (March) we advertised that we would hold GK Email System training sessions. Alas due to a very hectic Month, we were unable to hold these sessions. However, we will be holding sessions in the next two months. We cannot tie dates down at present as we are now entering a very busy period for the Order and the Board of Directors, who will be visiting Provinces during this and next Month.



We will however be conducting an exercise to see how many Grand Knights **have been using their email addresses**. Please expect to see an email from Communications to all Councils asking them to respond to us, so that we can visualise which Councils are using the email system, and which are not at present.

Brothers, the email system is there to help you. There are a great many functions that come with the email system, not just an email address. If you are not using your email address, then you may be missing out on important communications and updates!

News Knight

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

The Board of Directors has decided that this will now be a monthly publication! So, get any information about anything your Council or Province has planned or is planning to do into news-knight@ksc.org.uk

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

Send any future events to news-knight@ksc.org.uk as soon as possible. LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS FRIDAY 18TH APRIL 2025!!

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 (minimum of 6, maximum of 20!)

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.

Please remove all "Faith, Family, Fraternity" instances from communications, especially Facebook pages with immediate effect. If you want a new header for your Facebook page, please contact us and we will send you the new one.

KSC Website 2025

We will be making a lot of changes to the KSC Website during the forthcoming months. The first major change is that we are moving the entire website to a new webhost for the foreseeable future.

Why are we doing this? There is new architecture available all the time, and the Order needs to progress with technology changes. Therefore, we need to be capable of using new technologies going forward so that it will be easier to take advantage of easy to make changes to our website and include new features.

Whilst a lot of this is in the early planning stages at present, we need to update what we have quickly, whilst we build in the new features in the background. You will notice when these changes happen incrementally over the next year. **We will notify you as soon as possible of any new features here in The Bulletin**.

At a certain point the KSC website will not be available for <u>up to 48 hours</u> whilst we make this change. As soon as we can, we will notify you through Head Office of when the website will be down. We are anticipating this to be over Holy Week to minimise disruption.

We implore you all to NOT CONTACT HEAD OFFICE during this changeover as they will be unable to answer any questions on this.

The Communications Team, their wives and families take this time to wish Brothers, Wives, Family, Parishes, Clergy and Friends a Happy and Holy Easter.

Sincerely & Fraternally

Sean Smith,

Director for Communications

communications@ksc.org.uk





Welfare

JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMS OF HOPE.

As we continue onwards with this Holy Year various organised events are taking place. We continue with the Stations of the Cross every Thursday at 7.30 pm. These will continue until Holy Week. After Holy Week the Rosary will resume. This event is on Zoom and will continue until the end of the year.

This is open to all please ask your family and friends and also your fellow Parishioners. Posters are available, why not ask your Parish Priest if you can place a poster in the Church. Please also ask him to inform people where they can so. Please contact Communications for a copy of the poster to be emailed to you.

The Zoom codes are the same every Thursday.

Meeting ID 895 3351 1576

Passcode 856705

Numbers attending are growing, so why not join us.

RELICS TOUR 2025.

The Relic Tour is going well with many visitors Venerating the Relics. Please send any pictures of the visits please. They will be published on social media and hopefully on the website.

BIENNIAL MASS.

I hope this is in all Brother's diaries. The Biennial Mass for Deceased Brothers will be held on Saturday June 7th 2025 at 3pm in the Cathedral of Christ the King Liverpool. If any Brothers are staying over Council 9 Province 2 will organise an event if enough Brothers are interested. Please contact Brother Ray Pealing PPGK on ray@pealing.co.uk

Please invite the Widows from your Councils and also families of Deceased Brothers. In this JUBILEE YEAR let us turnout in force. Let us make this Mass a tremendous occasion.

WELFARE PAGE ON FACEBOOK.

Please use the page for Prayer Request also for Good News, events Brothers are celebrating. Special anniversaries, birthdays, etc.





WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Again, I am appealing to Brothers who may have the time to join the Welfare Committee. The Meetings are held on Zoom so there is no travel involved. The Committee have the responsibility of looking after the Welfare and Spiritual needs of Brothers. The Committee meets every three months unless there is a grant to deal with. Any Brothers who can help please contact me at welfare@ksc.org.uk

GRANTS.

Could Spirituality and Welfare Officers please ensure that when requesting a grant on the SW4 Form 2025 please ensure that Bank Details are sent in so that if a grant is awarded, we can pay the grant quickly.

Thank you in advance.

OBITUARIES NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST BULLETIN

Brother Henry Francis Worron	28/02/25	Council 268	Province 21
Brother Brian Chaplin	21/01/25	Council 172	Province 8.
Brother Edward (Ted) Walsh	24/02/25	Council 970	Province 41.
Brother James Feeney	02/03/25	Council 302	Province 10.
Brother Joseph Dalton	08/03/25	Council 74	Province 6.

Brothers Wives

Mrs. Bridget Amadi	06/02/25	Wife of Brother Robert Amadi.	Council 248	Province 29.
Mrs. Ann Edwards	06/03/25	Wife of Deacon John Edwards.	Council 185	Province 42.
Mrs. Colleen Townson	26/02/25	Wife of Brother William Townson	Council 74	Province 6.

Please remember to pray for the Repose of their Souls. May they all Rest in Peace.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter.

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





DAILY MASS SCHEME

MAY 2025

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	St Albans	320	41
Wednesday	14th May	Blackburn	132	21
Thursday	15th May	Glasgow West	2	1
Friday	16th May	Farnborough	185	42
Saturday	17th May	Manchester North	172	8
Sunday	18th May	West Norwood	356	12
Monday	19th May	Southport	146	2
Tuesday	20th May	Bournemouth	139	42
Wednesday	21st May	Harrow	295	41
Thursday	22nd May	Lincoln	142	9
Friday	23rd May	Ealing	369	41
Saturday	24th May	Arsenal	118	12
Sunday	25th May	Bognor Regis	324	34
Monday	26th May	Viewpark	474	16
Tuesday	27th May	Ipswich	206	10
Wednesday	28th May	Aberdeen	88	3
Thursday	29th May	Colne	268	21
Friday	30th May	Lesness Abbey	380	12
Saturday	31st May	Glasgow East	4	1



DAILY MASS SCHEME

JUNE 2025

Sunday	1st June	Battle	630	34	
Monday	2nd June	Forest Gate	111	10	
Tuesday	3rd June	Otley	425	45	
Wednesday	4th June	Berwick-upon-Tweed	988	3	
Thursday	5th June	Millom	57	6	
Friday	6th June	NO MASS	ST COLUMBA	ST COLUMBA'S DAY	
Saturday	7th June	Cockfosters	500	41	
Sunday	8th June	Hayes	243	41	
Monday	9th June	Brixton & Stockwell	571	12	
Tuesday	10th June	Eastleigh	393	42	
Wednesday	11th June	Ilkeston	315	9	
Thursday	12th June	Wolverhampton	184	18	
Friday	13th June	Blantyre	490	16	
Saturday	14th June	Widnes	18	2	
Sunday	15th June	Romford	224	10	
Monday	16th June	Renfrew	150	1	
Tuesday	17th June	Darwen	149	21	
Wednesday	18th June	Cardiff	402	2037	
Thursday	19th June	Redriff	161	12	
Friday	20th June	Preston East	383	21	
Saturday	21st June	Isle of Man	458	2	
Sunday	22nd June	Buckley & District	614	2037	
Monday	23rd June	Norwich	976	10	
Tuesday	24th June	Worcester	344	18	
Wednesday	25th June	Hoxton Square	637	41	
Thursday	26th June	Market Harborough	621	9	
Friday	27th June	Welling, Kent	294	12	
Saturday	28th June	London North	106	41	
Sunday	29th June	Rhyl	299	2037	
Monday	30th June	Whitton	970	41	