



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOVEMBER 2023

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.



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The Supreme Knight

Supreme Knights Bulletin November 2023



The 2022-2023 Board of Directors with Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh the Very Right Reverend Leo Cushley



Brother George Johnson BEM and his son Theo



Deputy Supreme Knight Brother Daineal O hEarchai His wife Sarah, and their Son JJ with his Mum



Sarah O hEarchai and baby son JJ meet with Bishop Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell and the Scottish Moderator of the Church of Scotland the Right Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton.



Baby JJ O hEarchai sporting his KSC T-shirt



Brother George Johnson BEM with his wife Emily and sons

Brothers

First, I must say I was deeply honoured and privileged that the Supreme Council elected me as your Supreme Knight for 23/24. I would like to congratulate all the Brothers that were re-elected to their positions and to welcome the Newly elected Board Members. I look forward to working with you all.

I also have to say a sad farewell to the Brothers who are demitting office - Brothers Sean Mulligan, Peter Simms-Coomber, Martin Cook, George Johnson BEM and John Campolini. Thank you for all the time and hard work and service you have given us. Brother Sean Mulligan, you followed in the footsteps of a great man who sadly passed away earlier that month, I know he would have been proud of you.

I must also pay special tribute to Brother John Ferns PGK Province 3 for all the work that you put into making us feel very welcome in Edinburgh and for those of you who received the tablet at the Banquet which by the way was delicious. We have to thank Mrs. Margaret Ferns for all the work and thoughtfulness that she put into it. A big THANK YOU Margaret.

I also must thank the Brothers Brian Beaton and Jim Bryce and their wives on the organizing committee, Mrs. Anne Beaton and Mrs. Liz Bryce. Also, to my Supreme Warden Brother Dominic Shannon and his wife Allison once again thank you.



What a start to a Friday night Session! I cannot remember a Supreme Council where a Point of Order was raised to change when the Supreme Knight was re-elected. It certainly made for good debate. After the Elections it was obviously more enjoyable and turned out to be a very successful Council.

What really struck me was that the Order embraced our family virtues by having JJ, Logan and Theo present over the weekend. JJ was even present at the top table of the banquet on Saturday. It was wonderful to see and to watch all us grandparents drooling over them. Hopefully Knights of the future.

I can only promise that the Board of Directors and I will take the decisions from Supreme Council that you made and carry them out to the best of our abilities.

On behalf of Tricia and myself we thank you for making it a memorable occasion.

May St. Columba Protect you all and keep you safe.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Henry Welsh".

Henry Welsh
Supreme Knight



Membership & Development

Dear Brothers,

I hope you and your families are well.

We recently enjoyed a wonderful Supreme Council weekend in Edinburgh, thank you so much to Province 3 for hosting a fabulous, fruitful weekend. Much debate was enjoyed, in a fraternal way only we know how to!

Sincere congratulations to the Worthy Supreme Knight, Brother Harry Welsh on his chairmanship throughout the weekend. I couldn't have been more proud of him and thank him once again for his support shown in me. I won't let you down WSK.

My grateful thanks to the departing Directors, Brothers Martin Cook, George Johnson and Peter Sims-Coomber. Thank you for your support indeed.

A special mention to Brother John Campolini, my mentor in many ways as he installed me as GK of my Council in 2017. We've remained firm friends ever since.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Brother Sean Mulligan. Another mentor for me and my own ongoing development. A mine of information and always willing to offer it to me over the years. I dare anyone at Supreme Council to say they didn't have a tear in their eyes when Sean stood down from the Board! Both the Membership and Spirituality departments are intrinsically linked of course, and I'll miss working with Brother Sean and look forward to forging the relationship with Brother Barry Johnston. Well done to Barry on his elevation.

A word of thanks to my Brother Supreme Councillors, you have once again put your faith in me as Supreme Director for Membership & Development, plus the added honour of Deputy Supreme Knight for this coming year. I promise I won't let you down, for that you all can be assured.

So, it's back to business!

We stand at 2,476 as of September 2023. Lapsations are down, new Members are up. If we keep on the current trend, by this Christmas we'll be in the black, a first for many years. Well done to everyone involved who are actively recruiting and retaining.

We've had a wonderful last few months, dozens of new men have been welcomed into our Order. It seems everyday HO email over a new batch of M1's and very few M5's enter my inbox. This has a lot to do with the Relic Tour, so again my thanks to all involved with that.

Keep your eyes peeled for some wonderful news coming from Province 3, dozens of new men lined up to form not one, not two but three Councils! Absolutely superb work from the Brothers north of the border, especially in such a vast geographical area.



What can we do now? A great time to get your thinking caps on and think about Advent. Our Churches will generally be busier than normal, with our Parishioners thinking about, and looking forward to the birth of our Lord and Saviour. Nothing too drastic as we don't want to over burden our Clergy. How about just a simple note in your Parish newsletters and a few Brothers after Mass available to hand out our brochures and offer any answers to potential interested gents. That's all it takes!

Keep up the wonderful work Brothers. The increase in Members isn't down to me, it's down to you and I thank you with my whole heart.

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

With my kindest fraternal wishes,

Danny Ó hEarchaí
Supreme Director for Membership & Development



Spirituality & Welfare

Brothers firstly can I introduce myself. I am Barry Johnston a Member of Council 60 Carlisle Province 6. I was elected to the Office of Supreme Director for Spirituality & Welfare by the delegates at this year's Supreme Council.

I have taken over the Office from Brother Sean Mulligan. Brother Sean is a hard act to follow, and I am sure Brothers you will join with me in wishing Brother Sean well.

This will be a short report because I have only held the Office for one week. November is the month when we have Masses at Provincial level for our Deceased Members, which we will also include their families in our intentions. Two Provinces have let me know the dates of their Masses, Province 7 will celebrate Mass at St Mary's Leyland on Friday 3rd November at 7pm, Province 16 will celebrate their Mass at St Joseph's Blantyre on Saturday 4th November at 10am.

Please could other Provinces and Councils send me details of any that they are arranging. Thank you.

Fraternity

Many Councils have Newsletters and WhatsApp for their Members, but do we phone or visit Brothers who have not been attending Meetings? They could be unwell or have other problems that we could help them with.

A senior Brother approached me in Edinburgh and informed me that one of the Widows had not been contacted since the Funeral of her husband in March. Brothers it is one of our commitments to the Order is to look after our Widows.

Sanctity of Life

We are supporting with Prayers and action against the horrors of abortion and euthanasia, Supreme Council were privileged to hear a talk by Sister Roseanne on the work of Sisters of the Gospel of Life. This was very uplifting.



Please remember in your prayers those who have died in the last month

?? April 23	Barry Lloyed	302	10
22/08/2023	James Riley	51	2
25/08/2023	Philip Carroll	493	2
27/08/2023	Michael Esters	60	6
27/08/2023	John Everest	320	29
29/08/2023	Brendan McArdle	206	27
31/08/2023	Columba Conway	223	18
09/09/2023	Michael Jessop	499	14
09/09/2023	Rev Fr Kevin St Aubyn	210	12
15/09/2023	Lawrence Doyle	468	7
	Anthony McCormack	200	12

Once again apologies for the short bulletin, but I am looking forward to this new role hopefully later this month I will have my links set up to communicate with you all.

Fraternally

Barry Johnston
Supreme Director for Spirituality & Welfare.



Daily Mass Scheme for November 2023

DAY	DATE	COUNCIL NAME	CO No.
Wednesday	1st November	Birtley	549
Thursday	2nd November	Leeds	11
Friday	3rd November	Hull	45
Saturday	4th November	Bradford	83
Sunday	5th November	Otley	425
Monday	6th November	Worksop	476
Tuesday	7th November	Dearne Valley	538
Wednesday	8th November	Millom	57
Thursday	9th November	Carlisle	60
Friday	10th November	Whitehaven	74
Saturday	11th November	Kendle	609
Sunday	12th November	Blackpool	91
Monday	13th November	Brownedge	212
Tuesday	14th November	Leyland	323
Wednesday	15th November	Preston East	383
Thursday	16th November	Penwortham	468
Friday	17th November	Manchester	104
Saturday	18th November	Horwich	125
Sunday	19th November	Manchester North	172
Monday	20th November	Standish	577
Tuesday	21st November	Nottingham	67
Wednesday	22nd November	Derby	92
Thursday	23rd November	Lincoln	142
Friday	24th November	Loughborough	197
Saturday	25th November	Ilkeston	315
Sunday	26th November	Newark	333
Monday	27th November	Grays	81
Tuesday	28th November	Ilford	82
Wednesday	29th November	Forest Gate	111
Thursday	30th November	Walthamstow	137



Media

Dear Brothers,

Columba Magazine

We are already accepting articles, news items, longer pieces (if you so wish) on Catholic Social Teaching and Obituaries for the next edition. Please see the closing date for submissions for this magazine!!!

December Editions - 1st November

Remember Columba Magazine is not just for Brothers!! We can send a copy to anyone!! If you know someone who would like to receive a copy themselves (at a cost of £6 per copy) then please do let us know.

Finished reading your copy and don't want to keep it? Then take it to your local Church so that someone else can read it. Please do keep an eye out for any tatty looking copies and remove them from circulation.

All articles for each edition must be sent to 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 and headoffice@ksc.org.uk may not be published or can be lost and not 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

As you will be hearing, at Supreme Council 2023 it was announced that each and **every Officer in every Council in the Order** is to receive an @ksc.org.uk email address.

We are currently in the process of setting up these (there are 1380 of them so please bear with us).

These will be posted in large envelopes to Provincial Grand Knights who will open and distribute the envelopes inside to the Council Grand Knight in their Province. Inside each of the Council envelopes is an envelope for each Officer in your Council.

Do not worry if all Officer Roles are not filled. Any spare roles must be returned to me via Head Office so that we can collate the proper roles in each Council and ensure that we have accurate Distribution Lists for the Supreme Knight, Head Office and the Board of Directors can contact Brother Officers when the need arises.



KSC Website 2022 Version

Also at Supreme Council we announced that we are looking for 6 Brothers to join the Committee to constantly review the current website so that we can keep it updated and with correct information on it.

If you would like to join the committee and would be happy to review the website, please email media@ksc.org.uk and let us know.

Knight's News

We are also preparing the November Edition of Knight's News for publication. If you have any forthcoming events that you would like us to advertise then please send them to:

knightsnews@ksc.org.uk.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

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



Action & Social

Dear Brothers,

As some of you who attended Supreme are aware, we have not signed off the finance report and as such to make sure we can cover the cost for Action and Youth we need to be as self-funding as possible.

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. I know that you have all seen that the Board of Directors have asked for all Councils to take a number, it is only £24 per year but raises funds for our worthwhile endeavours of the Order. 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 becomes more feasible, we are reducing the number of prizes down from 4 to 3. So, from March 2023 Draw we have a £50 top prize and 2 £25 prizes. This is until we can get the 200 Club running at its maximum.

Grand National Draw – The new Grand National Draw will be coming 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 next year you can sell to your Parish and friends and family. This is namely a raffle in all its' 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 “Providing funds for Action and Youth of today” to further promote our aims for the tickets.



We will in the near future 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, Or C, we make the draw a Christmas raffle and maybe change the size of the prizes to give more out to the Brothers. So, think about how we can get the support you want and also engage with more of your Brothers. Remember that the more we raise the less we will have to raise Dues to cover the cost of Youth competitions and evangelising through Action such as the Mercy Bus and other initiatives to highlight our works.

The Relic Tour – This has now finished but, we still have many Parishes wanting to host the Relic's. With this in mind the Committee will be taking suggestions for extending the tour of the Relic's to smaller Regions in the future so please if you have ideas on how we do this.

This should also be used as a way to highlight the Knights and used as a tool to recruit more Brothers. If I may use it for Priests who don't presently have Councils in their area to help expand our Councils, (I have used this and it works).

New National Action Project 2023/24 – Brothers, I am hoping you are all hard at work raising funds for the current NAP. As you are all aware we are going through a severe economic crisis both nationally and in our homes. The "Let the Children Live!" Charity is asking we don't forget them as they are finding their funds are drying up and the cost-of-living costs are hitting hard into their reserves and need our help badly. To be positive and outline what a Council is doing for the current NAP, we will ask all to forward what they have collected so we can give the maximum at Supreme Council next year, so please be generous in this endeavour. I hope you have all read the letter from Fr Peter Walters that has been in the last 2 Bulletins. The message is that life in the area has become very harsh both for the Charity and the children they help. Please think if this was my child would you wish for them to be abused in this way and help raise the profile of this Charity in the next year.

New National Action Project 2024/25 – There was healthy competition for the next National Action Project at Supreme Council between Alma Mater, CAFOD and Hands around the World, with all delegates giving a good account of their chosen Charity. After the delegates had their 10 minutes it was put to the vote and the Charity winning to become **our next National Action Project was Alma Mater**, which is part of SPUC,.



Keep Christ In Christmas – We as the Committee were made aware that we had run out of “Keep Christ in Christmas” at Head Office and were tasked to revamp the design and cost out reprinting the new design. We have a quote from a company to print the stickers on an A4 sheet with 48 stickers per sheet at a cost of 60p per sheet to the Brothers. This price is to cover postage, but stickers are available from Head Office, also for order. Unfortunately, we did not receive enough orders for the Christmas cards to meet the minimum number to keep the costs down. Maybe people will have the chance next year.

Charles Ferro Trophy – The forms went to the Councils and we have approximately 200 Councils and the response was very disappointing. We only had 6 replies from the Councils and of those there was little in the way of details. We have made our decision which was delivered at Supreme. But can I say that I am disappointed in the response from Councils. Brothers this is the opportunity to tell your Council’s story both the good and the bad your highlights and disappointments. If you can’t tell your Brothers, how are you communicating with your Parishes? We need to communicate with everyone what we are doing if we wish to garner more Brothers to our Councils. Also, we want to be promoting best practice through the Order so if it works for you then it may work for others. Please, please fill in the forms with as much detail as you can next year and return them.

Looking forward to the next year;

Lenten Stations and Rosaries please volunteer your Council, remember those who pray together stay together.

Remember to order your Keep Christ in Christmas stickers and posters. Nativity Scenes for inclusion on Facebook please send to apostolates@ksc.org.uk. Support the Reverse Advent Calendar in your Parishes, get those posters up early. Your community are relying on your support.

Looking to hold a national quiz so suggestions please as soon as possible. Will your Council want to participate? Where can we hold the finals?

The Golf tournament will be returning next year, get your name forward to be included.

Looking for best practices for our Meeting for Action Convenors of both Councils and Provinces to be held in the New Year.

Stephen McMillan
Supreme Director Action and Social

Faith, Family, Fraternity



Youth & Young People

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

Madonna Oakes Award 2023

Congratulations to Province 27 East Anglia on being awarded the Madonna Oakes Trophy for their work with the Youth and Young People in their Province. The Trophy was presented by our Worthy Supreme Knight Brother Harry Welsh at the Recent Supreme Council Meeting 2023 to WPGK Brother Jason Wickard. The Province has been successful in entering the Competitions and have celebrated their Youth and Young People both at School and at the Parish Mass. Well done and continue to use these Competitions to increase your visibility within your various Parishes. Therefore evangelising the Young People and improving your recruitment possibility.

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 - Is there any feedback from your Brothers, Schools, Parish Groups and other organisations? What feedback have you had Brothers? Please give any feedback from your area of the Country by email to: headoffice@ksc.org.uk and youth@ksc.org.uk

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.

World Youth Sunday (and Funday!) Resources are now AVAILABLE
at <https://worldyouthsunday.org/wyd2023>

World Youth Sunday is coming up later this month on **Sunday 26th November**, Feast of Christ the King, a day on which Pope Francis invites the global Church to celebrate and pray for young people. In Lisbon this year, Pope Francis told young people that “Jesus’ door is always open: Come and See!” This has inspired the theme for World Youth Day celebrations in England and Wales for 2023, and there are several World Youth Day resources **available here: <https://worldyouthsunday.org/wyd2023>.**

Email will be forwarded by Head Office with Poster and more information.

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. 22 nd December 2023
Christmas Photography Competition: Secondary Grades	11 to 14 years of age. 22 nd December 2023
Christmas Photography Competition: Senior Grades	14 to 18 years of age. 22 nd December 2023
Nativity Scene Painting: Primary Grades	4 to 7 years of age. 22 nd December 2023
Nativity Scene Painting: Primary Grades	7 to 11 years of age. 22 nd December 2023

Promotion of Youth and Young People's

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th August 2023. Council 151 Medway invited me to speak at one of their Parishes over a weekend. Saturday Vigil Mass and then the 2 Sunday Morning Masses. My brief – “A brief history of the KSC, its foundation and our charitable work”. Then, main part of my speech – “the Youth and Young People and our Competitions”. All Masses were full, and the First Sunday Mass was also used to make a Supreme Presentation after the Speech. Immediate feedback from Parishioners was very good, especially the Young People who were only finding out about our whole list of Competitions for the first time. A great weekend's promotion of our Order.

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. **Please give us feedback**

The committee and I will welcome any feedback about everything we have asked you to do. Is there any feedback from your Brothers, Schools, Parish Groups, and other organisations? What feedback have you had Brothers? Please give any feedback from your area of the Country by email to: headoffice@ksc.org.uk and youth@ksc.org.uk

The Youth and Young People Supreme Committee wish you and your families well in Faith, Family and Fraternity.

Michael Akinrele

Supreme Director for Youth and Young People.