



# **KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**Please note:**

**This correspondence must be delivered at EVERY COUNCIL MEETING.**

**This correspondence can be divided and given to relevant Officers in the Council.  
If the Officer role is vacant then the Grand Knight will read out that part of this  
correspondence.**

*Let Life Flourish*



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## The Supreme Knight

Brothers,

Having had a conversation with Bishop Tom and the sermon that Fr Aidrian my Parish Priest about Pentecost, then I am sure this is the right time to have discussions on changes. Both were talking about the Apostles waiting in the upper room afraid of what was going to happen then Jesus enters the room and breaths the Holy Spirit into them. What a change in them! They go in the belief that they can do anything, talk to anyone and carry out Jesus's mission on earth. We need to take heart from that and believe we can make a difference. Quote from Cardinal Nichols which we should take as our mantra going forward:

**“We need to return to Columba, then we'll return to Christ and that is all we need for the Knights of St. Columba to succeed.”**

After having discussed the proposals of the Sub Committee at our Board Meeting and not concluding on the night, we reconvened in June and after suggestions from Provinces 5 Leeds and 7 Lancaster, then Province 4 Middlesbrough would not merge with 6 but instead merge with 5 Leeds leaving a presence in the North East of England and 7 Lancaster to merge with Province 21 East Lancashire. Having looked at them and having had informal discussions on them, this would be the Boards decision on mergers. The rational was to follow the 5 Ecclesiastical Provinces of England and Wales and have 5 Regional Directors instead of eight.

### Merger of Provinces

- Province 4 Middlesbrough to merge with province 5 Leeds.
- Province 7 Lancaster merges with Province 21 East Lancashire
- Provinces 11,29,30 to merge and become one Province, called Province 41 Westminster.
- Provinces 19 Plymouth and 39 to merge with Province 14 Portsmouth.
- Province 27 East Anglia to merge with Province 10 Brentwood.
- Province 37 North Wales to merge with Province 20 South Wales.

This would reduce the number of Provinces to 17 and the Supreme Council delegation by 15. We would also have to use District Deputies in some of the larger Provinces. There are District Deputies in use at present so there would not have to be a constitutional change.

This would leave Provinces:

1,2,3,6,8,9,10,12,16,18,21,34,37,38,41,42,45.

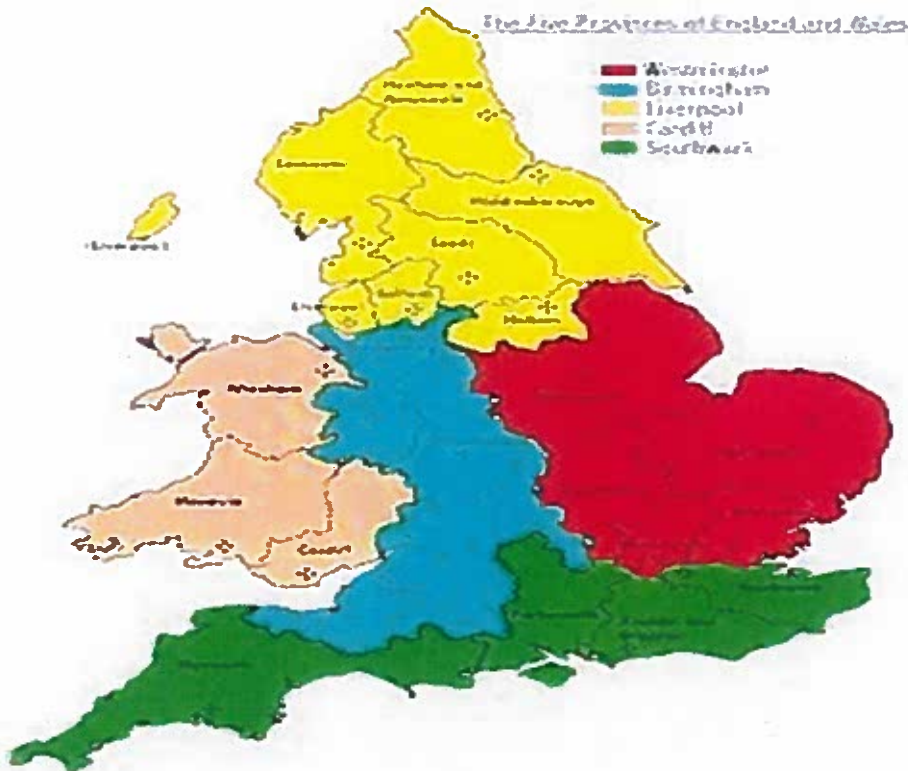
As we have reduced the number of Provinces, and we are sitting at 2400 Members then we reduce the Board size to 12 by changing the number of Regional Directors from 8 to 5 by following the Ecclesiastical Provinces of England and Wales. Scotland would be a Region of its own and as there would only be one Province in Wales, the Birmingham Regional Director could be responsible for them.

This was then changed at the Supreme Council in October 2023 when Brother Tony Brittain KCSG proposed that we go back to having four added Directors voted on at Supreme Council for a two-year period.

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I would like to thank all Brothers who have worked so hard and shown a tremendous amount of fraternity in working together through these changes. A special mention must go to Brother Rosario Fichardo for all his hard work,



May St Columba keep you safe and protect you all.

**Brother Henry Welsh**

**Supreme Knight**

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## Membership & Development

Dear Brothers,

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

I hope you enjoyed the Membership workshop on 3rd February. If you'd like a recording of it, please do email me. We've learnt lots from it, and our stats don't paint that bad a picture if I'm honest so well-done Brothers, keep up the great work.

We are only a few weeks from Lent already. As I alluded to in the last Bulletin, let's hope we can do our Parishes proud and serve them well and be as visible as you can, I'm sure we'll do our best!

We had some fabulous news after the recent Board Meeting - approval for 2 new Councils, both in Province 38 (Northampton). My heartfelt thanks to PGK Bro Mike Chibuike and his team for getting those men in, well done indeed!

The website applications are coming in thick and fast after a slow Christmas. Let's hope we can get them over the line and welcomed into our great Order. These men are wanting to join us, let's get them in!

The great news continues - Province 2 (Liverpool), the WSK, Bishop Tom and the WSD for Youth and I are meeting online shortly with the Head Teacher of a Catholic school in Warrington. He really wants us to forge a relationship and get our now defunct Squires back into action. What a fabulous opportunity for us and we'll certainly do our best to make this happen. Province 34 (Arundel & Brighton) has something similar on the back burner, so we'll crack on there too. Let's hope and pray we break some ground with our Catholic schools and entice our young adults to answer the call from St Columba. It'll safeguard our future, for that we can be assured.

As I write this, the WSK has secured a private meeting with His Excellency, the Apostolic Nuncio at his home in London. As with His Eminence Cardinal Vincent last year, the WSK and I will sell the KSC to him, explaining our works and what we do for the Catholic Church in Great Britain. Let's hope he too can sell our story to the faithful up and down the country as he makes his way to each Archdiocese and Diocese in England, Scotland and Wales. Thank you to the WSK for pushing us along with this. Any advertisement is a good advertisement!

Do keep in touch with our Spiritual Bouquet we are undertaking in partnership with SPUC. They really are a beautiful and worthwhile 30 minutes, especially after a long day at work. Refreshes the heart and soul in preparation for the week ahead. Let us work and support SPUC in the efforts to 'make abortion unthinkable'. Your support will be great appreciated my friends and Brothers.



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

With my kindest fraternal wishes,

***Danny Ó hEarchaí***  
***Supreme Director for Membership & Development***  
***[membership@ksc.org.uk](mailto:membership@ksc.org.uk)***



## Action & Social

**200 Club** – We are now at 145 members. We as a Board made the decision to ask all Councils to take a number in the 200 Club. As yet, as of writing we have had limited reply to the request. We need to bring this up to the full 200 members as it is running at break-even at present, and hopefully if Councils all take a number, we could possibly have up to 400 members.

As you may have noticed we did not have a draw in December due to the vast problems from moving into our new Head Office and the remnants of Supreme Council, therefore this month we had a **super draw** with prizes of £100, £75, £50.

The results are;

1. No 11 Council 614 - £100
2. No 62 Council 320 - £75
3. No 9 Brother Danny O hEarchai

(P.S. the winner this month is the SK's Council)

If we can't get interest from Councils, we will have to close it after November. We are holding another Super Draw at the end of February so get your numbers and help keep it going.

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

### Let Life Flourish from Conception to a Natural Death

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

These are the monthly intentions;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A website to receive all prayer actions from individuals, groups, Councils and Parishes etc. has been set up. The website for intentions is being covered by the SPUC so go there to place your intentions

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/letlifeflourish>

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We have covered most of the weeks for Rosaries but if you feel you and your Council can contribute please let me know, also please come along and pray with us. As the saying goes “those who pray together stay together”.

Our 40 hours adoration is coming from Poole so ask your Council if they can sign up for an hour of prayer or the Rosary.

I will be writing to the Bishops of the England and Wales and the Bishops of Scotland for permission and if they will participate in our cause for the run up to the Jubilee 2025.

**Grand National Draw** – the new Grand National Draw has been sent out to Provinces and Councils. 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 raise funds for the central work of the Order – namely Action and Youth activities.

Perhaps this year you can sell to your Parish and friends and Family?

This is namely a raffle in all 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 “raising funds for the youth of today” to further promote our aims for the tickets.

I will put out to the Order a choice of 3 ways we can run this in future:

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

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

Please, please, can we all try and sell a few extra tickets each to our Parishioners. It will make a big difference in the end to the activities we can hold and the youth we can help.

**Let the Children Live!** - We are in the last 8 months of fund raising for this, our National Action Project. Can we all try and bring this to the forefront of our mind in raising the monies for Charities. I would hate to see us fail in this worthwhile endeavour and be unable to give a decent amount to them at the next Supreme Council.

You will soon receive a USB stick, prepared by the Media Committee which has a video update from Let the Children Live! that we should have showed at Supreme Council 2023 but didn't have time to,





**Mercy Bus** – We will be doing the Mercy Bus in and around London this August. Please wish us well in making this a reality.

To all the Councils in and around London. I will be needing your help with the logistics and help on the day when the bus is in or close to your area. Please help where you can.

***Stephen McMillan***  
***Supreme Director for Action & Social***  
***[apostolates@ksc.org.uk](mailto:apostolates@ksc.org.uk)***



## Media

Dear Brothers,

### Columba Magazine

Good news on the Columba Magazine. The Board of Directors has agreed that we will now produce 4 editions of Columba Magazine each year! Therefore we are now preparing for the Spring Edition of the Magazine once again. Please can you send any articles of interest to [columba.magazine@ksc.org.uk](mailto:columba.magazine@ksc.org.uk) by the 29<sup>th</sup> of February for a March Publication.

### KSC Email System

We have now concluded the email system exercise for the Order. This means that in the next three months every Council Grand Knight in the Order will receive an email address. Provincial Grand Knights will receive an envelope for each Council in their Province to distribute to the Council Grand Knight.

Once you receive your envelope you will find a piece of paper detailing your email address and temporary password. **The temporary password will require to be changed on the first time you log in.**

To log in just got to <https://outlook.office.com> (not [www.outlook.office.com](http://www.outlook.office.com) or any other address) and click on the log in button.

It will ask for your email address – which is on the paper we sent you. Please type it in carefully! Then click on the blue “next” or “continue” button and it will ask for your password. Type in the temporary password **for the first time only** and it will ask you to change the password once you click on the blue “next” or “continue” button.

It will ask you for the “Current Password” which is the temporary password and then ask for a new password and a confirmation of the new password.

**New passwords must be a minimum of 8 characters long and must contain at least one capital letter and one number or special character (!"£\$%^&\*0)**

Once both have been entered correctly it will log you into your inbox and you can start sending and receiving emails.

We realise that not all Council Grand Knights are technology wizards. If the Council Grand Knight does not have a computer, or feels unable to be able to log in, **it is the responsibility of that Council Grand Knight to appoint someone in the Council to take on the Grand Knight’s official email address.**

This will allow Head Office, The Board of Directors, Regional Directors, Provincial Grand Knights and Brothers to be able to communicate with your Council easily, irrespective of who is the Grand Knight.

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We also appreciate that some Grand Knights will demit Office this year so we have asked for this to be passed on to the Grand Knight Elect instead to set up.

We expect this to all be completed by April 2024 so that we can start a new year in a better form of communication. If you are still having trouble, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **USB STICKS**

You will shortly receive a USB stick from your PGK to be copied to a laptop, or copied to a blank USB stick. There is one USB stick per Province to be sent around or taken by the PGK to each Council.

On each USB stick you will find the following:

- A video from **Let the Children Live!** that we could not show at Supreme Council due to time constraints. Please feel free to show this to Parishioners in your area.
- A video prepared by Brother George Johnson showing highlights from the Relic Tour 2023. Again, please feel free to show this to Parishioners. These are great examples of the work that the KSC does and could assist with recruitment.
- All the Forms required for 2024
- All the Handbooks that were ratified at Supreme Council 2023
- The latest edition of the Rules and Constitution of the Order (2022)
- The Safeguarding Policy of the Knights of St Columba 2023

**Please ensure that your Council gets and retains a copy of these files.**

Later this year a new USB stick with any updates at Supreme Council will be produced and distributed so that Councils will have access to all the latest Rules and Constitution, Handbooks, Safeguarding Policy, Privacy Policy, Forms, etc. It is our intention to keep these USB Sticks updated as much as we can year-on-year.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

***Sean Smith,***  
***Supreme Director for Media***  
***[media@ksc.org.uk](mailto:media@ksc.org.uk)***



## Spirituality & Welfare

### Spiritual Bouquet, let life flourish.

We have completed the first month of the Spiritual Bouquet. Many thanks to the Supreme Knight and Board Members who led us through the month with Rosaries and two Holy Hours.

In the coming months Brothers are asked to help us by leading the Rosary, arranging Holy Hours, Benediction from their Province or Council. Brothers willing to help can contact myself at [welfare@ksc.org.uk](mailto:welfare@ksc.org.uk)

The Spiritual Bouquet is with our friends at S.P.U.C. There is a link on their website to enter completed events/prayers for the Spiritual Bouquet –

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/letlifeflourish>

Also, on the Right to Life there are four ongoing bids to legalise Assisted Suicide in Britain.

1. Westminster inquiry into Assisted Suicide
2. McArthur Assisted suicide in Scotland
3. Jersey Euthanasia Bill
4. Isle Of Man Euthanasia Bill

Brothers our prayers are needed in these days.

### Advance Notice

The K.S.C pilgrimage to Carfin will take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 starting at 2.30 pm

The K.S.C. Pilgrimage to Aylesford will take place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June starting at 12:00pm.

The K.S.C. Pilgrimage to Glastonbury will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 starting with the Rosary Procession at 2:00pm.

### Welfare

**SW3 Forms** - could Councils please send these via H.O as soon as possible. I am receiving the notification of Brothers going to their eternal rewards weeks after their passing. The same Form should also be used for Wives and Widows.

Are we still in contact with Brothers who are sick and housebound, also the ones that cannot make Meetings because of work commitments etc. Do we need to send them copies of the Council Minutes? Have you made contact with the Widows of Brothers.



**Please remember those who have passed to their Eternal Reward**

Unfortunately, I have recorded the death of seven Brothers and one Wife. Please can you remember to keep them in your prayers.

16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Brother Christian John Gibbons	Council 970	Province 30
28 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Brother Patrick Coates	Council 630	Province 34
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Brother Bernard Waite	Council 216	Province 14
16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Brother Tony Thorpe	Council 139	Province 14
20 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Brother Dr. Charles Arawea	Council 125	Province 8
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024	Brother Joseph Okuma	Council 295	Province 30

Mrs Doris Monteiro widow of the late Brother John Monteiro died 28/12/23 Council 328 Province 12

**Retreat**

Council 246 Carfin are having a retreat on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Carfin, starting at 11am. There will be a talk followed by Confessions, Mass, a break for lunch and then Stations of the Cross in the Grotto (weather permitting) ending with Benediction. Please contact Council 246 if you wish to attend.

Lent will be upon us soon! If your Council has any Spiritual events please remember to enter them onto the webpage devoted to the Spiritual Bouquet.

***Barry Johnston***  
***Supreme Director Welfare and Spirituality***  
**[welfare@ksc.org.uk](mailto:welfare@ksc.org.uk)**



## **Youth & Young People**

**READ AND ACTION THIS IMPORTANT BULLETIN.**

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PROVINCIAL & COUNCIL YOUTH OFFICERS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **SCOTTISH CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE (SCES)**

<https://sces.org.uk/>

<https://sces.org.uk/caritas-award/>

<https://sces.org.uk/faith-award/>

### **MILLION MINUTES**

<https://millionminutes.org/>

<https://millionminutes.org/revival>

### **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED.**

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

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#### **MISSIO**

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

#### **CYMFED**

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

**CYMFed Faith in Action Award – Recognising, rewarding and celebrating the active faith and service of young people**

**Flame tickets are now on sale for Flame 2025 as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.**

#### **CAFOD**

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

#### **KSC Website**

**Brothers, apologies that you have been having problems accessing the Youth Competitions on the Members Area of the KSC Website.**

**You now access the Youth Competition from the Front Page of the KSC Website, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tab ACTIVITIES, then select the YOUTH page and click thereafter to download the Competitions Rules, Posters etc that you require. Watch this space and the Facebook page for more information. This will save you having to go into the Members Area.**

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

#### **National Competitions 2023 – 2024 England, Wales and Scotland**

The new dates, posters, rule sheets for 2023-2024 were sent out in August and September. Please request them if your WPGK, Provincial and Council Action and Youth and or Youth Officers have not got them to hand. Make a request direct to me or Head Office. Email Address below.



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

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

**Please be assured that the first 2 competitions submission dates will be changed to allow for the total closure of Head Office during the Christmas Holiday Period. Whilst this might not totally put us back to the old submission dates, it will give us more time to carry out our Adjudication at all 3 Levels. Dates will be discussed again at Committee. Results are imminent.**

**Rosary planned for May 2024 for Our Young and their Exams. There will be a Poster to circulate.**

**Rosary for the SPUC / KSC Spiritual Bouquet Let Life Flourish Youth dates from 1<sup>st</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> August. Dates will be uploaded soonest.**

**Youth Officers Committee Meeting in February 2024**

### **Information from Provinces.**

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

### **Facebook- KSC Youth and Young People**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/617421102214099>

Join the Youth and Young People Facebook page and visit it regularly to see various resources posted on there. Download and promote the appropriate resource that appeals to you to your Parish and your schools etc.

**Facebook - 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](mailto:headoffice@ksc.org.uk) and [youth@ksc.org.uk](mailto:youth@ksc.org.uk)**

**The Committee and I will welcome any feedback about everything we have asked you to do. Please give any feedback from your area of the Country by email to : [headoffice@ksc.org.uk](mailto:headoffice@ksc.org.uk) and [youth@ksc.org.uk](mailto:youth@ksc.org.uk)**

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**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.**