



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 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.**



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The Supreme Knight

Dear Brothers

I just want to say that the Board have been working very hard over the past few months on your behalf. I would like to thank the past Supreme Knights, Ecclesiastical Advisor, and our Deputy Supreme Knight especially for giving their time to the Order. I would also like to thank each one of the Board Members for their loyal support. I believe we have conducted ourselves in a very fraternal manner over this very turbulent period.

By the time you read this you will have received a statement from the Board and what we need to do as an Order is to move forward. We all have to play a part in this Order. You joined the Order for very personal reasons, and I am sure like me you have got lots of blessings out of the Order. Take onboard, it is not all about what do I get out but what can I give think of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

What does a man gain if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?

Please Brothers, we are all human and have feelings that can make you feel very fragile, but as I have said on many occasions if you put your head above the parapet be prepared for it to be blown off.

What has been shown over the last couple of months, is there is a distinct lack of training within the Order, and we need to address it after everything that has happened. We cannot sit back and do nothing. It is not just the Board who have to come up with a plan to help the Order, you Brothers must look as well and pass on your thoughts through the proper channels.

Which leads me to emails. Brothers please do not send out emails around the Order that do not contain the full facts. You must only use your email list for matters pertaining to your position and if you have any issues go to your Regional Director.

I pray that we have all learned some lesson over the last few months and we can take this wonderful and Fraternal Order forward. I can assure you that myself and the Board are doing their best for the Good of The Order.

May St Columba keep you safe and protect you all.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads 'Henry Welsh'. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Brother Henry Welsh
Supreme Knight

Let Life Flourish



Membership & Development

Dear Brothers,

I hope you and your families are well.

We're now into Lent – normally a quiet time for us as we prepare for our Lords Passion. With that said, all our Officers will be 'on parade' as we enter another year of Installations with our Officers at both Provincial and Council levels. This in itself is a wonderful time to be visible and show your Parishes that we are around and here for them. Use these events and Masses to recruit – it's worth a try!

I know we're well into collaborations! We're enjoying a beautiful time with SPUC this year, I personally get so much out of the weekly rosaries which we pray to 'make abortion unthinkable'. I'd love to see more of us however, please do support us with your valuable prayers and takes up only 30 minutes per week.

My own Council, Council 216 Columba Cross (Jersey) were so fortunate to host our Worthy Supreme Knight and Worthy Regional Director Brother Tony Quigley on the weekend 9-11 February – we held a fundraiser for Stella Maris, the Catholic Church's sea agency. It was wonderful to introduce the WSK and Bro Tony to The Stella Maris CEO Mr Tim Hill MBE and make those oh so important connections. We as Knights have so much to offer other Catholic organisations. As we do with SPUC, lets crack on with them all! SVP, Caritas, CWL, UCM, the Catenians and Caritas to name a few. Collaborate and get our name amongst them!

I've often heard, even from clergy too, that they've never heard of the KSC! We are indeed the Catholic Church's best kept secret! Let's change that and get visible. We simply cannot quantify the time and money we have all invested since 1919 in our goal to 'Serve God by Serving Others'. It'll be in the millions! Now we must do it shouting from the rooftops! Do not ever be ashamed to be Knight. As I travel often in my role, walking through airports in my KSC shirt, I have nothing to fear, nor can you. St Columba has our back and this is how we roll – return to Columba and we'll return to Christ – to quote His Eminence Cardinal Vincent.

I'm so proud of you all as the M1 Forms come rolling in. Thank all so much to getting those men in, plus the reinstatements too. Thank you all, Brothers.

I wish you all a blessed Easter and we're safe in the fact that He is, indeed, Risen. Alleluia.

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 hEarchai
Supreme Director for Membership & Development
membership@ksc.org.uk

Let Life Flourish



Action & Social

A warm welcome to this Lenten edition of the Action Bulletin. “With the Jubilee 2025 on the horizon our focus is on prayer. The *Our Father* is the key theme for the Holy Year of preparation this year. The Our father, more than any other prayer, is the fundamental prayer of Christian life. It Teaches us everything we need to know about prayer. It is the perfect prayer and a summary of the whole gospel. The Our father is a kind of Creed, a proclamation of what we believe. Celebrate and live. Therefore, we don't pray 'My Father' but 'Our Father', because when we pray, we join ourselves in love and solidarity to the worldwide communion of believers.

Our hope is that Lent will provide a wonderful opportunity to renew our prayer life and experience the Our Father in a new and refreshing way”.

+ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

Lent is a season of penance and self-denial expressed through the ancient disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. From the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our mortality and exhorted to repeat and believe the gospel.

This much is true -- we are pilgrims on a journey of conversion back to the Fathers house. How fitting that in dedicating ourselves to prayer should focus on the *Our Father*, that most perfect of prayers, a summary of the whole gospel.

200 Club – We are now at 150 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 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. We agreed to have 3 Super Draws to bring the Draws up to date.

The February Draw results are;

1. 37 Brian Beaton
2. 150 Harry Welsh
3. 41 Chris Brooks

If we can't get interest from the Councils, we will have to close it after November. We are holding another super draw at the end of March so get your numbers and help keeping 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.

As we have had the monthly dedications in the past bulletins, we have decided to have monthly prayers for ourselves in this Spiritual time of lent.



We ask your blessing on the beginning of our Lenten journey, Lord

We seek the blessing of your help throughout this holy season, Lord

We know that we will receive many blessings by sharing in your precious relationship with our Father in Heaven, Lord.

Blessed are those who welcome God's Kingdom into their lives.

Blessed are those who live in the hope of Heaven each day.

Blessed are those who give hope to others, we show the way to our true Kingdom, the joyful Reign of God in all things.

My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (Psalm 102:2)

Grand National Draw – the new Grand National Draw has been out to Provinces. 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 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 am asking each Council to send in their choice of what we do going forward.

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.

If you can send your choice to your Province and if your Province can collate this after the 31st April and send to apsotolates@ksc.org.uk and if we go with option C, we can go with starting with this Christmas.

Please, please, can we all try and sell an extra few tickets each to our Parish it will make a big difference in the end to the activities we can hold and the youth we can help. Please also ensure that Ticket Stubs and monies are returned to Head Office **no later than Wednesday 27th March.**

Mercy Bus – We will be doing the mercy bus in and around London this August, so please wish us well in making this a reality. To all the councils in London I will be needing your help with the logistics and help on the day when the bus is in your area. Please help where you can.

To finish I have not received any answers back from “Let the Children Live” but please remember the first casualty of any war, it is often said, is the truth.



Yet the first casualty of every war are also the innocent civilians: children, women, the elderly, the disabled, the sick and dying. Homes are razed to the ground, innocent people slaughtered, people are buried deep underneath rubble, the wounded are rushed to hospital and even there may not be safe.

We don't simply pray for peace. We cry out 'O God bring Peace, banish War.

Pray for all in the Ukraine and Gaza

Stephen McMillan

Supreme Director for Action & Social

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 electronic 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 by the 29th 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 go to <https://outlook.office.com> (not 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 (!”£\$%^&*())

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.



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 **1st 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. We will be running a Zoom Training Session for all Grand Knights on **Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7:30pm for any queries or questions. Head Office will send the Zoom codes to all Grand Knights on Monday 18th March. Please look out for the email and join us.**

KSC Website

We are currently reviewing the KSC Website on a quarterly basis to see where changes must or need to be made. If you would like to be part of this team and are in the North of England, Scotland or Wales, please email media@ksc.org.uk to express your interest.

Also, we are looking for Councils to send us photographs, articles and future plans to feature on the website. Brothers, this is your Councils opportunity to showcase to the world the wonderful works we all do. If we can show the world what it is that we do, perhaps we can spread the interest for more men to join us in our local Councils and assist us with doing more great works. Let us show the world what we can do!

Please send anything you feel would be great to promote your Council to media@ksc.org.uk and we will feature it on the website. Please try not to send photographs which just have Brothers standing in formation, but photographs of Brothers talking to people or in action doing something! Let us show the world that we are active!

KSC FORMS 2024/25

You will have seen all the Forms on the USB Sticks that were distributed by your Regional Directors and PGKs. If you have not received one yet, please get in touch.

We are in the process of updating these Forms on the KSC Website, which you can fill in online and email direct to Head Office or the Officer concerned and can be printed to be kept in your Council. Please give us until the middle of March to get this exercise completed.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

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



Spirituality & Welfare

Spiritual Bouquet

We continue into Lent with this Spiritual exercise in conjunction with S.P.U.C., our partners. The theme being “Let Life Flourish” - from conception until a natural death.

In this year of prayer, our prayers are needed. M.P.s are putting motions forward to make it easier for abortions to take place, in some of these cases up to birth.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide have not gone away, many more people are pushing for assisted suicide.

Please look out for emails and social media notifications for events that will be taking place, these include:

- Stations of the Cross
- Holy Hour
- Benediction and Rosary
- Masses
- 40 Hours Adoration

Around the middle of the year a 40-hour adoration will be taking place, Brothers we need your assistance with arranging slots over this period. Can your Province or Council help with this?

Just a gentle reminder if your Council or Province are going to be organising pilgrimages or other events for this year of prayer. Please can you let us know the dates and times so we can cascade this to Brothers.

Daily Mass Scheme

The Daily Mass Scheme has been updated from the 1st April this year, the new rota will move from Province to Province daily, this is so that Masses are not in one Province for the week. This will then allow PGKs to attend masses in their Provinces if they so wish.

Welfare

Very soon invoices will be sent out to councils with the dues for 2024/2025.

Are we checking in with our elderly Brothers, the sick and housebound. Are they receiving funds that they are entitled to? Some Brothers are too proud to seek assistance with this, the order can help them with this through the ‘special needs allowance.’ Unfortunately due to low interest rates and dividends it is not a bottomless pot of funds.

Don’t forget that a percentage of your dues must be paid into the Council and Provincial benevolent account.

Now comes the part of my bulletin that I don’t like doing.

The list of Brothers who have passed to their eternal reward, please pray for them and also please pray for the 2 Widows who have passed away.

Unfortunately, there were no details of the Widows husbands on the SW3 form.



Please remember those who have passed to their Eternal Reward

Brother Victor Wickard	23/12/2023	Council 518	Province 29
Brother Eugene McCarthy	20/1/2024	Council 945	Province 20
Brother Michael Kilburn	4/2/2024	Council 110	Province 21
Brother William Cosgrove	7/2/2024	Council 520	Province 16
Brother John D'cruz	10/2/2024	Council 444	Province 41
Brother David McMeekin	12/2/2024	Council 433	Province 34
Brother Arthur Piggott	18/2/2024	Council 182	Province 18
Mrs Cathy Cody	3/9/2023	Council 232	Province 14
Mrs Susannah Okreafor	8/2/2024	Council 248	Province 29

Just a gentle reminder that if you have anything that you would like to update me with, please get in touch.

Lastly a big thank you to Brother Sean Smith Director of Media. For updating the Daily Mass Scheme.

Barry Johnston
Supreme Director Welfare and Spirituality
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.

SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children)

200 young people from around the UK are boldly answering the Call to Courage at this year's SPUC Youth Conference.

Did your Young People manage to make it as part of the 200 Young People? I know of a Province sending a Brother John Agbonrofo-Co.396 and Province 1 Glasgow Action and Youth Officer and a Member of the Youth Committee. SPUC are our Partner Organisation. Let me know if your Young People attended, please? Youth@ksc.org.uk

Sacrament of Holy Communion and Confirmation Classes

This is a good opportunity to evangelise Young People in a direct way by speaking to them. Please give us a 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/>

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 31st 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 from the Members Area of the KSC Website. Contact me directly at youth@ksc.org.uk I will ensure that the Posters, Rule Sheets are sent out more frequently whilst this situation continues. When it is resolved I will add the link to the Business Card on the WSD Y&Y Directors Email.

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

NATIVITY SCENE PAINTING COMPETITION WINNERS 2023-2024

Congratulations to the successful Young People, Schools, Councils and Provinces who entered. **Total of 15 Provinces out of 24 Provinces sent submissions.** Good Improvement on last year's 12 Provincial Submissions. Well done.

YEAR GROUPS RECEPTION, Yr1, Yr2, P1, P2, P3 (Eng/Wal/Scotland – 4yrs to 7yrs Old).

WINNER: Logan Salvador-YR2

PROVINCE 12 SOUTHWARK / COUNCIL 108 DARTFORD.

2ND PLACE RUNNER UP: Amelia Skrodzka-YR2

PROVINCE 14 PORTSMOUTH & CLIFTON/BASINGSTOKE COUNCIL 169



3RD PLACE RUNNER UP: Anna-P2

PROVINCE 16 MOTHERWELL.

Certificates signed by the Supreme Knight.

Cash Prizes of £15:00

YEAR GROUPS Yr3, Yr4, Yr5, Yr 6, P4, P5, P6, P7 (Eng/Wal/Scotland – 7yrs to 11yrs Old).

WINNER: Cara McMahon-P6/7,

PROVINCE 16 MOTHERWELL

2ND PLACE RUNNER UP: Kate Tomkins-YR6,

PROVINCE 8 SALFORD

3RD PLACE RUNNER UP: Lana Tomlin-YR6

PROVINCE 14 PORTSMOUTH & CLIFTON/BASINGSTOKE COUNCIL 169

OVERALL WINNER: Cara McMahon-P6/7,

PROVINCE 16 MOTHERWELL

Overall Winner,

i.e. the better of the Winning Entries from Groups 1 & 2 combined.

Overall Winner's Trophy for Cara

The Columba Rouse Trophy which will be retained for approximately one Year by the Province.

Date and venue of national awards presentations will be announced at a later date between the WSD Y&Y and the Province and Council.

NB: Submissions not amongst the winners list can expect a Participation Certificate from Head Office.

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 Poster to circulate.

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

Youth Officers Main Committee Meeting in February 2024 took place.

Youth Officers Wider Committee Meeting in March 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-Are 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 committee and myself will welcome any feedback about everything we have asked you to do. Are 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. Happy Easter! Wishing you all the love and happiness that only Easter can bring.

**Michael Akinrele
Supreme Director for Youth and Young People.**

Note: As with all the Supreme Directors Report in this Head Office Bulletin. Can I respectfully remind each Provincial and Council Officer that they are required to include a precis/summary of the HO Bulletin in their written Provincial and Council reports, in order to bring it to the attention of the Brothers when emailed in the Provincial and Council Newsletter and Minutes. At the very least he should read it out in the Council meeting.