



Knights' News

News from the Knights of St Columba

December 2024 Edition

Welcome to the, now quarterly, Knights' News. Featuring prominently in this edition is news from our 2024 Supreme Council at which the Order of the Knights of St Columba selected the Alma Mater at its National Action Project for the coming two years. Alma Mater says ...

"We are incredibly grateful that the Knights of St Columba have chosen the Alma Mater Fund for their National Action Project from 2024 – 2026. In so doing, this Catholic Lay Fraternity has shown a commitment to protect vulnerable women and their babies – and to support these women in pursuing the best for themselves and their children. To learn more about how you can be involved, or to donate please visit: www.ksc.org.uk/alma-mater"



KSC National Action Project 2024-2026 www.ksc.org.uk/alma-mater



Alma Mater Fund is an initiative of SPUC Scotland. SPUC Pro-Life Scotland Ltd (known as SPUC Scotland) is a Scottish Charity, SC050567 and a company limited by guarantee, SC446258.

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What is the Alma Mater Fund? The Alma Mater Fund is an initiative of SPUC that provides financial grants to pregnant students facing difficulties at universities across the UK in order to support them in pursuing their academic and personal goals. Through the work of the initiative the Alma Mater Fund coordinator can also direct students to further sources of support and advice.

How does a student apply? First, a student should contact the initiative: Call, Text, WhatsApp: 07849 088244 | Email: info@almamaterfund.org.uk | Social Media: @almamaterfund. Then the Alma Mater Fund coordinator will walk through the very simple application process with her.

"The Alma Mater Fund was extremely helpful, and the support offered really motivated me to go through with my university career. It is hard enough to balance studies on a regular basis, and while pregnant it might feel like the world is crushing you and you might want to give up. Finding out there is support out there for mothers that want to finish their academic journey gave me the strength needed to plan my path." – Alexa

"The Alma Mater Fund is a huge support. Everyone is lovely and more than willing to help. Being a student and having a baby is a financial struggle. The grant will allow me to get my daughter the things she needs. If you are a student and get pregnant, there is help out there. At first I thought I would never manage, but having a baby is the best thing that's happened to me." – Kaitlyn



<https://www.jrsuk.net/>



The new edition of 'Together' out now!

This edition brings you insightful stories from our refugee friends, volunteers, and supporters. Explore the challenges faced in detention, the importance of creating connections within communities, and the critical advocacy work that lies ahead.



You are warmly invited to this year's

JRS UK Advent Service

**Friday 6th December, 7pm
Farm St Church, London**



<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign>

Campaign

CAFOD stands in solidarity with people across the world by campaigning to tackle the root causes of poverty and injustice. Pope Francis has called for us to put our faith into action by building a fairer world and tackling deep seated injustices in our global social, economic, and political systems.

Working together with our brothers and sisters around the world, we campaign to tackle climate change, defend human rights, cancel unjust debts and build a fairer food systems. We also campaign for peace and an end to conflict wherever it arises.

Put your faith in to action and join our campaigns.

“With the strength of the Spirit, we need to offer an answer here and now to the cries of the world. To hear them we must go out and be a Church-on-the-move that reaches out like the Good Samaritan.”

Pope Francis

<https://practicalaction.org/our-work/our-approach/>

INNOVATE

We start small in one community, learning from tradition, blending in new technologies, testing and finessing.

CELEBRATE

We champion the most powerful solution, equipping and training local communities to adopt ideas that work.

ACCELERATE

Through partnerships with governments, businesses & institutions, we apply proven solutions on a national & global scale.



How ‘potato power’ transformed Sudanese farming communities

CAFOD's online Advent calendar 2024

Our online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas.

Join us as we journey through the season of Advent with our global family.

Sign up for daily reflections straight to your inbox

[Interactive online Advent calendar 2024](#)

“Do No Harm” is a short documentary which highlights some of the grave concerns around proposals to legalise assisted dying in the UK and Scottish Parliaments.

The documentary, which features Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Bishop John Keenan, Dr Gillian Wright, Lord David Alton, and Professor David Albert Jones, gathers together experts from the medical and palliative care professions, alongside prominent politicians, ethics experts and religious leaders, to construct a unified voice of unease.

It spotlights key concerns around preserving human dignity and protections for vulnerable groups, and challenges the robustness of tabled safeguards in the UK legislation, by citing the experience of other jurisdictions which quickly eased access and expanded eligibility.

You can view the documentary via the links, below.

- YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Mi3S2yp3hjY>
- Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/1029444718?share=copy>

Please remember to share the documentary with family and friends, and on social media, and please use the hashtags #DoNoHarm and #RaiseYourVoice.

**Join us for a Beautiful Advent Carol Service with ancient
Gregorian Chant at St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth**



St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth near Guildford invites you to a special Advent Carol Service including the singing of ancient Gregorian Chant. Nestled in the serene surroundings of the Surrey Hills, our Roman Catholic Benedictine monastery offers a peaceful and reflective setting to celebrate the season of Advent together.

This Advent Carol Service is open to everyone, regardless of faith or belief. Whether you are a person of faith, exploring spirituality, or simply seeking a moment of peace and beauty, we warmly welcome you.

This contemplative service will feature traditional Advent carols, the singing of ancient Gregorian Chant, Scripture readings and reflections led by Chilworth's Benedictine monks. Immerse yourself in the timeless music and messages of hope, peace, and preparation for the coming of Christmas.

Date & Time: Sunday, 8 December 2024 at 3:30pm

Location: St Augustine's Abbey, Sample Oak Lane, Chilworth, Surrey GU4 8QR



Please send items that you would like advertised in the Knights News through. Remember this will go out every two months on the even numbered months of the year.

"Reverse Advent Calendar" – A KSC Action Project with Caritas Southwark

If you are not familiar with the concept it involves the gifting of a single food or toiletry item each day from the 1st of December up until Christmas and then that box of gifts being given to a local charity, or food bank. Dates of gifting may need tweaking depending on the charity or food bank so it may finish on the 20th or 22nd for instance.

It can be rolled out in a number of ways, each Brother and their families taking part, involving your schools, or going to the parishioners and asking them to take part (advertising in the newsletter, giving out flyers/instructions & setting up a donation point). In all cases, however, liaise with your local food bank and arrange pickup from your Parishes and drop off for the gift boxes to the charity. You may also consider going to supermarkets and collecting empty boxes and providing them to participants. It's a simple concept but needs some effort to make it work.



November For anyone who has lost a child
We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

December For pilgrims of hope We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope

Subscribe to *Knights News* to ensure you are aware and up to date with the events that are taking place in your community.

Email : headoffice@ksc.org.uk or via the website <https://www.ksc.org.uk>

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