



# eColumba

**Mission Statement** — *As Brothers of the Knights of St. Columba we are resolved through our own efforts, prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to increase the Membership of our Order so that we can more effectively work for Christ's Kingdom.*

## Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, Ecclesiastical Advisor to the Order writes. . . . .



In a far-reaching reflection this week, Archbishop Philip considers the new pandemic restrictions, our duty to live with charity and solidarity during this period, and our final judgement by Christ the King: "Two things make me hopeful for our eternal destiny ... I have never met anyone without a scrap of love and charity in their heart. Secondly, the Church has never said that any individual person is in hell. Jesus is the one who has the authority and the power to look into our souls and find there the love that will permit us to enter eternal life. "Jesus is the one who, despite our sins and frailties, has the authority to validate our existence and our activity forever. Jesus, the Universal Judge, in calling us to unselfish charity, is the one who scrutinises our souls for the spark of divine love that will permit us to live forever with the saints in heaven. "Covid-19 is a particularly nasty virus, and we do not want people to become ill or die. Practical charity in this pandemic may just be that spark of divine love in us that the Lord will look for."

### *And then there were 20 .....*

It seems like a huge joke on the Church to proclaim Jesus Christ as King, while being under such severe restrictions that only 20 people at a time are allowed to come together in Church for Mass to celebrate this great feast. I never imagined for a second that I would mark my fifteenth anniversary as a bishop under these circumstances. I consoled myself by remembering the crucifixion of Jesus when the soldiers mocked him. "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

When we proclaim Christ as King, we need to recognise that He is a King who reigns from the Cross, and, from the Cross he is the King who can promise paradise. To one who was crucified with him, you remember, and who recognised Jesus' innocence, Jesus promised, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Jesus is King because, through his Cross and Resurrection, he is the Saviour who has won for us the crown of eternal life.

Jesus is the King who reigns from the Cross, and those who belong to his kingdom are called to carry their Cross and follow him to the glory of the Resurrection. Because of this pandemic, we are once again suffering even more severe restrictions to our freedom to come to church to worship God. Part of

our suffering is the fact that it is not particularly clear why 50 had to drop to 20 in the Tier 4 regulations. It could, however, be worse. In England, Ireland and France, all churches are just closed for public worship, full stop. We do not want that to happen, so we will bear this cross with dignity, patience and forbearance, hoping that the Tier 4 restrictions are lifted on 11th December as has been promised.

If you are frustrated by the Tier 4 restrictions on your personal freedoms, let me point you to today's Gospel. Jesus is King also because he is the universal judge of every human being, with the authority to admit to eternal life or to condemn to the eternal fire.

In this scenario of the last judgment, the measure Jesus will use for his judgment is love and practical charity. Here are his words: "I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, sick and imprisoned and you visited me, a stranger and you made me welcome. When you did this to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

We are told that we are under Tier 4 restrictions because the rate of Covid-19 infection in Glasgow and the West of Scotland remains, in the First Minister's words, "stubbornly high". At the beginning of this

pandemic, we were all in it together and it was easier to accept lockdown. Now we are not. In some parts of Scotland, people are shopping normally, going to pubs and restaurants freely until fairly late in the evening, and socialising with each other more than we are.

Part of this disparity is that in four Catholic dioceses, 50 people can be at Mass; and in the other four (which contain the vast majority of the Catholic community of Scotland), only 20 people can be at Mass. If this makes you frustrated or angry or feel a sense of unfairness, just try to bear it as our commitment to practical charity and to the love of our neighbour, so that infection rates will come down, and we will all be able to enjoy more personal freedoms at the end of this period of Tier 4 restrictions.

More than that – much more than that – Jesus the Universal King will judge us at the end on our love and charity.

+ Philip.





**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**  
SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS



**NATIONAL ACTION PROJECT  
2019 - 2021**

**THE  
JOHN FOSTER  
MEMORIAL HOME**

**Kamanur Village, Mangalamcombu  
in the Palani Hills of Southern India**

**THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**

are fundraising to help in the development of a  
**NEW ACCOMMODATION BUILDING.**

“Columba House” is to replace a fire damaged building to accommodate 40 boys, to purchase a new Jeep for transportation and the supply of food and to purchase IT equipment to bring the boys education into the 21st century.

**Target £60,000.00.**

Check-out the Website at:-

[www.jfct.org.uk](http://www.jfct.org.uk)

*(Due to the pandemic the project has been extended for another year)*

**DONATIONS**

**Cheques should be made payable to:-**

**The John Foster Charitable Trust**

**and posted to:-**

**KSC Head Office, 75 Hillington Road South,  
Glasgow G52 2AE.**

**Bank Transfers and Standing Orders to:-**

**KSC National Action Project  
RBS Group**

**Sort Code 83-21-06 Account No. 00188915**

**Please mark all cheques /  
Standing Orders—KSC (NAP)**

**Please mark sll cheques / Standing Orders—KSC**



**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**  
Building on the Foundations for our Future

**Catholic Young Writers Award Winners  
Announced-2020**

**Fantastic News . . . .**

Due to our Promotion of the CUCT Young Writers Award—fantastic results.

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 I received an email with a copy of the Winners letter addressed to a Joint-Winners School. The email was from WGK-Brother David Spinks of Co.184 Wolverhampton, Province 18 Birmingham informing me that one of their Young People, Vyvian Ogenna Okoro of Our Lady and St Chad's Academy, Wolverhampton was a joint winner of the Catholic Young Writers Competition which we were asked to promote. Congratulations was sent to WGK-Brother David immediately.

On the Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020. My son Timi Akinrele came home and stated that his Head of Year called him out at Assembly at his Non-Catholic Dartford Grammar School and announced that he was one of the runners up in the CUCT Young Writers Award and he was presented with 2 books 1) Newman's London (written by Joanna Bogle herself. Joanna sets the Competition) 2) My Prayer Book. Co.200 Bromley, Province 12 Southwark.

Brothers, we have spread the word and helped the CUCT increase their Promotional Area. The result is the success of our Young People. Pray God we use every means of promoting the CUCT 2021 competition even further. Well done Brothers.

“This year, participants were invited to write about the importance of attending Sunday Mass and were expected to show evidence of having studied the relevant Scriptures and sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The organiser, author and broadcaster Joanna Bogle, said: "We were pleased to get so many entries for the project this year. The Coronavirus meant schools were closed, but pupils made an extra effort, taking the initiative working from home - and the results were very good."

Fraternal Regards

Brother Michael Akinrele

Director for Youth and Young People.



**Faith—Family—Fraternity  
The Foundation for our Future**



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