



Knights of St Columba TM
Arundel & Brighton
Province 34
Christmas 2023

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



A Very Happy and Holy Christmas to all Brothers, Wives and Families, and a Happy New Year.



They hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. The shepherds found the Baby Jesus at the centre of his family. He will live with his parents for thirty years before his identity will become known to all.

Provincial Grand Knight



Brothers, I would like to commend in my report the various Councils in the Province who through their efforts in recruitment have increased the numbers in the vineyard. I recall when I was elected to office, I promised that our focus will be on recruiting new members to the Order and I believe we have moderately achieved that objective. Well done to all the brothers.

I was privileged to attend on the 7th of September the annual KSC/UCM Joint Pilgrimage to West Grinstead, the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation with fellow Brothers. It was well attended despite the rain. Canon Tom Treherne delivered the spiritual talk on Saints and led in the rosary prayers.

I attended on, 20th to 22nd October the Knights of St. Columba 100th Supreme Council Meeting in Edinburgh with Bro. Geoff Breeze IPPGK. Once again, I am pleased to report that Province 34 had another good mention at the Supreme Council Meeting in terms of recruitment. Bro. John Campolini Regional Director – Region 8 in his report to the Supreme Council said and I quote, “Province 34 is also a busy Province which is assisted by its Bishop, who is very pro Knights and ready to help especially Recruitment, a topic that the province reviews and encourages its Councils to do with some success” unquote.

In summary and briefly for information: (i) Brother. Henry Welsh Worthy Supreme Knight was re-elected Supreme Knight and Bro. Danny O’h Earchai was re-elected Deputy Supreme Knight. (ii) Voted and agreed to increase the dues by £2 from £60 to £62 per Brother and following discussion and agreement to cut costs. Cost of meetings to be reduced; number of Regional Directors to be reduced. (iii) Fidelity Bond and National Directory costs will no longer be charged to Councils bringing in a saving of £6 per annum. (iv) also agreed that Golden Jubilarians will no longer have their annual dues paid for from CBF (Central Benevolent Fund) (v) of the three projects presented for approval as National Project 2024/25, SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) was voted and agreed as KSC National Project.

The Anniversary Mass of St. Philip Howard at Arundel Cathedral was attended by Brothers on 22nd October where I was kindly represented by Worthy Deputy Provincial Grand Knight Bro. Trevor Stauss as I was away at the Supreme meeting.

Coming up on the 19th November, before the Provincial meeting would be our Annual Mass for Deceased Brothers at Arundel Cathedral confirmed and agreed by his Lord Bishop Richard Moth.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the Provincial Council for the support I have received and quote Cardinal Nichols: “We need to return to Columba. Then we’ll return to Christ. That is all we need to do for the Knights of St. Columba to Succeed.” God Bless.

Bro. Solomon Ezobi PGK

Eastbourne Council 433

All 4 members of the Council have been active in one way or another during the last 3 months. Two members are on the Finance Committee of their Parish, one a Gift Aid organiser and the other as Health & Safety assistant.

One member gave a publicity talk during Mass at his church on 15 October.

The Council decided to join the 200 club run by the Order, following the appeal for more members. One member had previously joined and had won a first prize!

We are arranging to distribute Christmas Posters to each of the 3 parishes in our area, as well as Christmas stickers.

Bro Bob Waters Secretary



Bognor Regis Council 324

Sadly Brother Ian Wood lost his ongoing struggle following admission into Hospital and passed into the Lords embrace on the 5th October. The family were very appreciative of the many Brothers from both Bognor and Worthing Councils that attended his funeral. Ian, his wife Sheila and family remain in our prayers.

We were fortunate in having Fr Ramon visit us from Spain for the month of August. While he was here he honoured us by officiating at the full Knighthood ceremony of Bro Ferdinand (Rov).

Following the Mass for Deceased Brothers, Bognor Council Treasurer, Bro Brendan Haughey was presented with his Certificate and Jewel on achieving his 50 year service to our Order. Congratulations Brother Brendan on becoming a GJ.

The Council continue with its Ukrainian initiative following a request from a Ukrainian lady who attends Our Lady of Sorrows. We would encourage all Councils to contribute if possible and if you feel you would like to help us with this, please let Bro John Burnett know. It must be noted that because of the response we have had, storage capacity is sometimes limited.

The social committee are in the process of developing a full social calendar. We were joined by members of Chichester Council for a skittles night and the Deacon Anderson quiz night. Both evenings were immensely enjoyable. We now look forward to the Christmas luncheon on the 9th December.

The Brothers still come together on the 4th Friday of each month for the Rosary for Life, following Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows. All are welcome to join us.

May I take this opportunity to wish all Brothers and their families a Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year

Bro Tony Moran Grand Knight



Congratulations

**To Brother Brendan Haughey of
Bognor Regis Council 324
On receiving his
Golden Jubilee Medal
following the Mass for Deceased
Brothers at Arundel Cathedral on
Sunday 19th November 2023.**

**Seen here with Bishop Richard
and Provincial Grand Knight
Brother Solomon Ezobi**

OBITUARY

Brother William Gallagher

Columba Cross
Bene merenti,
Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice
Died 6th October 2023
Southwark Province
R.I.P.

Brother Ian Wood

Died 5th October 2023
Aged 79
Bognor Regis Council 324
R.I.P.

Brother Will, as he was known by many, has served the Order since 1965, having done most, if not all, roles at council level. He served his province (Southwark) as Chancellor and Provincial Grand Knight.

He was elected to the board of directors and served the majority of his 20 years as Supreme Director for Spirituality and Welfare..

He also served the order as Archivist for many years, he was always a mine of information and could give many facts about the order and about the church.

Brother Will was extremely active within the church, as his two papal awards will testify.

Brother Will, will be sadly missed by all who knew him. We ask for your prayers for the repose of his soul and for his family and

Brother Ian died after a six month stay in hospital for heart problems.

He joined the Knights 39 years ago and was an active member often singing at council meetings. He was a member of Worthing Council 280 before transferring to Bognor Regis Council.

He had a tenor voice and was a valuable member of the Parish choir who sung at his Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows..

Before retiring he was the owner of a Care Home in Felpham.

He will be sadly missed by all and we pray for the repose of his soul.

Welfare

Anniversary Mass St. Philip Howard.

A good number of Knights represented The Order.

K.S.C. involvement in the cathedral for this service has still to be sorted as nothing had been organised by "The Friends of the Cathedral".

Bar distribution of the Order of Service leaflet, further involvement by the K.S.C. was carried out at the last minute before the start of Mass.

The Friends of the Cathedral had given their attention solely to the preparation of the Vestments Display (Vestments were up to 150 years old) and the AGM.

MASS FOR Deceased Brothers.

It was noted that the attendance level of the 11.15 a.m. Mass was low. KSC support for the Mass was 20 Knights plus wives.

Deceased Brothers:

Bro Ian Wood Bognor Regis Council 324 Died 5th October

Bro William Gallagher (Southwark Province) Former Supreme Director for Spirituality & Welfare. Died 6th October.

Bro Hugh Brentnall Spirituality and Welfare

ACTION

We were recently advised that the Order had received requests for a repeat of the tour of the relics of St Columba together with those of St Andrew and St Margaret, for those parishes who were unable to participate earlier this year. It is hoped that the organisers now have some experience which hopefully, will enable them to provide a much better service to our parishes. "If you do it badly you will probably be asked to do it again".

I believe that requests for repeat visits of the relics stem from the lack of timely notification that would allow Councils to advise all parish newsletter writers of when and where the relics would be on display. The brothers responsible (GK or AYC) must ensure that notification appears in the newsletters of all their Deanery parishes and not just the one displaying the relics, at least two weeks before display. It maybe worth considering Regional GKs be made responsible for ensuring timely communications to PGKs and GKs.

I would offer the following for consideration by the powers that be. These arise from the previous situation when no firm information was received until a few days before the relics actually arrived which gave no time for parishioners in other parishes to be advised :

To ensure that all Provinces who receive the relics are given firm and fixed dates for their delivery which includes the name and contact details of the brother responsible for delivery.

The date of delivery must allow for all parishes concerned, ideally the whole Deanery, to publish the date of exhibition in their parish newsletters at least two full weeks before it occurs.

The relics of St Columba are wonderfully well protected in a very robust travelling case. I would suggest that a similar case be constructed for the relics of St Andrew and St Margaret. That reliquary in itself is not robust and will again travel many miles by many individual car boots, to reach the faithful. As the brother responsible for the transfer to the following Council, I was dismayed to see that there was no real protection for it. The plastic box which covered the top of the reliquary was only a dust cover, not secured and a poor fit. The box actually interfered with the ornamentation that it was meant to protect to the extent that the box was repeatedly scratched from the constant movement when travelling. The organisers will be failing in their duty of care of these precious relics if they do not improve greatly on their travelling protection.

When considering the sequence of events that must take place to provide the notification required, I gathered my thoughts by creating a simple pictorial schedule which shows the dependencies of each event upon its predecessor. Some Brothers may have no experience of such refinements and so not appreciate its necessity or the benefit that such a schedule affords.

I hope that this will provide some guidance to allow everyone involved to bring about a greatly improved and less stressful relics tour. "By failing to plan you are planning to fail"

BroTrevor Stauss Action Youth & Social Officer Province 34

Worthing Council 280



The Council meeting was not held in August.

Worthing Brothers, attended the West Grinstead Pilgrimage on Thursday 7th September. The 3rd of October saw the Council meet together at English Martyrs' church, for their Mass as part of the Order's Daily Mass scheme. They also attended the Mass for our Patron Saint, Philip Howard on Sunday 22nd October and the Requiem Mass on 3rd November, for Brother Ian Wood. May he rest in peace, at Our Lady of Sorrows, Bognor. Brother Ian was a member of Council 280 when he and his family lived in Worthing. Brothers also attended the Memorial Mass for deceased members of the Province, on 19th November at Arundel Cathedral.

Membership drives were held as planned in English Martyrs' Goring-By-Sea 23/24 September, at St Joseph's Rustington and St Catherine's Littlehampton. Rather ambitiously the latter two were held on the same weekend, 14/15 October but were still well supported by Worthing Knights. Duplicate publicity boards were on display at both churches throughout the previous week and tri-fold leaflets describing Worthing Council's achievements over recent years were distributed after all Masses. A good response was received from English Martyrs' parishioners which resulted in

Continued over

two gentlemen joining us for the October Council meeting. Despite an additional stirring address from Deacon Adrian Burnett regarding his and Fr Tony's father's membership of the Order, our efforts at St Catherines' and St Joseph's have so far been unproductive.

Our Autumn Race Night was held on 21st October. This was extremely well supported by 110 punters and thanks to their generosity, produced a profit of £1,750. £1,500 for Let The Children Live, the National Action Project and £250 for our local perennial projects. This is probably our highest earner in over 40 years of Race Nights of this format. We are sometimes asked how we are so successful? We believe that it's due to a reputation for giving people a good time, refining the process to produce a great atmosphere, good organisation and an experienced team, great support in selling tickets by our brothers, good advertising and information about the main beneficiary and a good venue with easy parking, generous fish and chip supper, a licensed bar and a great raffle. Brothers from other Councils would be most welcome to come and see how its done. Friends and relations of Action Convenor Brother David Wynn-Davies, who were asked "What's a Race Night?" often reply "We can't explain you just have to experience it!". This year Brother David's party alone consisted of 28 members! The racing presentation is very analogue and a bit quirky, we don't use films as they are too expensive or live jockeys as we don't have the space. Our next Race Night is planned for 18th May 2024.

The Council will dine together with wives, widows and friends for a pre-Christmas event on 9th December at a local restaurant.

Christmas posters have been received and distributed to brothers at each of our 8 parishes.

Christmas gift vouchers for our widows have been arranged. These will be accompanied by a printed copy of the annual eChristmas card. Brothers subscribe to send their greetings to each other via this, in lieu of sending Christmas cards, which raises funds for the Worthing Churches Homeless Project, Turning Tides.

Brothers continue to visit and to keep in touch with our widows and with our infirm brothers. Their support to their parishes continues, in all ministries.

We plan to start 2024 with our traditional New Year's Day Mass, this year it will take place at St Michael's, Hayling Rise at 11 am.

Arrangements have been made for brothers to provide the pulpit address and collections for the White Flower Appeal in support of SPUC on 13/14th January, at various parishes.

With every good wish to all brothers and their families for a happy and holy Christmas.

Bro Trevor Stauss GK

Membership

Bro John Hydes, MO Council 280, Worthing which currently has a total of 18 Brothers, states that they held a recruitment drive at English Martyrs Church on 23rd/24th September, and four gentlemen expressed an interest in the Knights and have been invited to the October and November meetings of the council. A Recruitment Drive was held on the weekend of 14/15th October at St Catherine's Church in Littlehampton, and at St Joseph's Church in Rustington. Council 280 are to be congratulated on their progress on membership.

Brother Hugh will contact Canon David Parmiter in the New Year, with regard to having a Recruitment Drive at Arundel Cathedral. In addition, there are strong possibilities of a recruitment drive at Crawley Parish early in the new year.

There has been an expression of interest from a gentleman who lives in the Guildford area and one in Haywards Heath. I am ascertaining which council would be the closest and will be in contact with the relevant Grand Knight to follow up.

It would be good to hear from other councils which have successful recruitment strategies, and which could be shared with other councils. In addition, it would be wonderful to receive reports from other Councils regarding membership.

Brother Stephen Horsman
Provincial Membership Officer.





The closing quarter of this year commenced on the 7th September 2023 with a combined Day of Reflection at Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead, and was an opportunity for the Knights of St Columba and the Union of Catholic Mothers to share an enjoyable day of spirituality and sociability.

On the 20th September 2023 Brother Owen O'Connor had the opportunity of speaking on the National Catholic Radio Maria, using the occasion to speak about the Knights and promote our activities and Talks Programme. The first of these Talks was held on Saturday afternoon 21st October 2023 at St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church, Knaphill. Msgr Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Pakistani born Roman Catholic priest and former Anglican Bishop of Rochester, spoke on The Shapes of the Church to Come, how the Church is shaped by the Gospel, and how the Apostolic teaching is received and lived in different cultures and contexts. The talk was well attended and participants expressed their appreciation of the afternoon. Refreshments were served in the parish hall afterwards. Two potential members attended the talk, one of whom will be admitted to the Council in the new year.

Brother Treasurer Owen O'Connor laid the KSC Memorial Wreath at the annual Remembrance Day Service in Knaphill on the 11th November 2023.

The Provincial Mass for Deceased Brothers of the Order, celebrated by Bishop Richard Moss at Arundel Cathedral at 11.15am on 19th November 2023 was attended by Brother GK Roderick O'Connor, his son Brother Treasurer Owen O'Connor, and grandson Michael. Regrettably, due to health issues, a number of Council Brothers were unable to attend.

At 10am on Sunday 26th November 2023 Brothers, wives, and widows of deceased Knights attended the Annual Mass for Deceased Brothers of the Council at St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth. As always, we were made to feel most welcome by the Monks who provided refreshments in the Social Room after the Mass.

The Council has planned a series of talks to be held during the coming year, and the next Talk will be at St Dunstan's Catholic Church, Woking, at 7pm on Wednesday 17th January 2024. PACT, the National Catholic Prison Advice and Care Trust, is an independent UK charity that provides practical services for prisoners and prisoners' families, and works at several prisons across England and Wales. The talk, by Marie Norbury, will be on how the encounter with Faith is a turning point for many in the prison system. More details on Council 551's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095608233514>

Council 551 extends fraternal Christmas blessings to all KSC Members and their families, with prayerful wishes for a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

Roderick O'Connor



Provincial Officers and Councils 2023 / 2024

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Council Grand Knight	Meeting time	Council meeting Venue
Bognor Regis 324 Tony Moran 01903 774804 tonymoran07@gmail.com	2nd Mon 7.30 pm	St Peregrine's Hall, The Parish Centre, Hislop Walk, Bognor Regis
Brighton 277 Paul Lowry 01273 565437 pelowry@aol.com	2rd Wed 7.30pm	St Thomas More, Patcham <i>(Provincial Council meetings also take place at this venue first Sunday of each quarter at 3pm)</i>
Chichester 546 Ray Webb 01243 788803 rayfwebb1@yahoo.co.uk	3rd Mon 7.pm	St Richard's, Cawley Road Chichester
Crawley 358 Stephen Horsman 01293 540112 spe.horsman@btinternet.com	4th Tuesday 7.30pm	The Friary Not currently meeting
Eastbourne 433 Rod Barker 07729936666. barkeruk@btinternet.com	2nd Mon 3pm	Venue varies. Please check with GK
Hastings 630 Fidelis Okoliko 07946689934 okoliko61@hotmail.com	3rd Tues 7.30pm	St Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs Magdalen Road. St Leonards-on-Sea.
Guildford & Godalming 551 Roderick O'Connor mocandroc.uk@gmail.com)	3rd Mon 8pm	St Pius X, Lauston Close, Merrow, Guildford, GU1 2TS
Worthing 280 Trevor Stauss 01903 366152 grand-knight-council280@ksc.org.uk	2nd Tues 7.45 pm	English Martyrs Goring Way, Goring, West Sussex, BN12 4UH



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