



Knights of St Columba TM Arundel & Brighton Province 34 March 2024

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2024

Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom

It is time to act and in Lent, to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbour. For this reason, prayer almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us.

Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travellers. This is God's dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind.

To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope. Allow me to repeat what I told the young people whom I meet in Lisbon last summer: "Keep seeking and be ready to take risks". At this moment in time, we face enormous risks; we hear the painful plea of so many people. Indeed, we are experiencing a third world war fought piecemeal. Yet let us find the courage to see our world, not as being in its death throes but in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history.

We need courage to think like this. (Address to University Students, 3 August 2023) Such is the courage of conversion, born of coming up from slavery. For faith and charity take hold, this small child, by the hand. They teach her to walk, and at the same time, she leads them forward

I Bless all of you and your Lenten journey.

Given at St John Lateran

Francis

This is an extract from the Pope's full lentern message.

Provincial Grand Knight

Brothers, this sadly with heavy heart will be my last quarterly report as Provincial Grand Knight having duly served my mandatory three years as Grand Knight of Province 34.

It has been a wonderful journey and a memory to cherish, working with the excellent group of officers and Brothers of the Council. We have worked and achieved so much together during the past years. Thank you for your support and let us continue to serve God by serving others.

We have in the passing months lost good, close, and faithful Brothers. The Chancellor, Bro Hugh Brentnall be reporting on this. (Please see separately a letter of thanks and appreciation I have received from Samantha Gibson, daughter of our late Bro. Patrick Coates RIP). May the Souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.
God Bless.

Bro. Solomon Ezobi PGK

Dear *Solomon*,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the support and presence of the Knights of St Columba at my father Patrick Coates' funeral last week.

It was a great comfort to see him honoured in this way, and I will carry a lasting memory of your 'guard of honour' that greeted the mourners and allowed Patrick to pass into St Thomas's Church surrounded by his Brothers. As I think I told you afterwards, the sight of you placing his Knight's collar on his coffin at the start of the service was a poignant moment and reduced me to tears.

Please pass on my thanks to all the Knights who attended; it was good to see so many familiar faces. I also ask you to pass on my gratitude to those Brothers who travelled some distance to Hastings on such a blustery, cold day. It was good to be able to meet some of them at the wake at The Squirrel Pub.

As you are aware, Patrick has left a small gift of £500 in his will to Knights of St Columba 630 (General Account) Hastings and Rother. I will be in contact to make arrangements for payment.

Patrick was devoted to the Knights of St Columba and his Brothers and you paid him the most wonderful acknowledgement of that devotion. Thank you for your efforts to ensure he was honoured by such a distinguished last salute.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha

OBITUARY

Brother Patrick David Coates
Council Hastings and
Rother Valley 630
Died 29th December 2023
Aged 86
R.I.P.

Patrick Coates, much loved by Samantha, David and Diana and remembered by his many friends and family.

Husband of Janet nee Lynn (who died in July 2021), father to Samantha and Timothy and brother to Diana and Geoffrey.



Attended Hastings Grammar School 1948 to 1953 then five years Royal Navy apprenticeship in Marine Engineering. Left the Royal Navy having attained the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

Worked for Unilever as power station superintendent at Samreboi with African Timber and Plywood (Ghana), then Chief Engineer Plantations Pamol in Cameroon, responsible for oil processing mills and rubber factories with a work force of over 3000.

Worked in later life as a sub-contractor and Chief Engineer in Ghana where he set up a staff development and training programme for engineers. He retired in Hastings in 1992 where

he spent many happy hours rambling with the Hastings Ramblers, helping to repair and restore footbridges and stiles.

He attended St, Thomas of Canterbury Church and Holy Redeemer RC Church and was an active member of the Knights of St, Columba having served as Grand Knight, Secretary of Council 630, Hastings and Rother and Provincial Secretary of Province 34.

Died aged 86 after failing health caused by pulmonary fibrosis.

From Council 630

It was with great sadness to inform Brothers that one of our founder members Brother Patrick Coates died on the 28th December 2023.

Brother Patrick was not just a Knight; he was very active and loved the KSC. In fact, he led us in so many different ways in our Council 630 Hastings & Rother as well as Province. He held many posts including Grand Knight, Warden, Membership & Development, Secretary of our Council and Province, etc.

He also instigated the School Shield scheme that has been so successful in our Council. He was our most experienced Officer with amazing wealth of knowledge that we all turned to. He will be greatly missed.

Brother Patrick's funeral was held on the 6th February 2024 with a fantastic attendance and sending off. It was great to see many Brothers from our Council, Province and many others at the Funeral Mass. I want to take this opportunity to thank all Brothers who attended to make this such a grand sending off. Brother Patrick's family really appreciated our effort.

Bro David McMeekin
Council Eastbourne 433
Died 12 February 2024
R.I.P.

Bro David joined the Order in 1970 when he was 25.

He was Grand Knight of Eastbourne Council 433 several times, the last time was from 2015-2018. He held many other offices in the Council.

He became less active after his wife Sandra became completely paralysed after falling in St Joachim's Church. He was her main carer.

Bro David's funeral will be held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 11am at Our Lady Of Ransom Church 2/4 Grange Road, Eastbourne BN21 4EU

The following is information received about a previous Knight of Worthing Council 280.

When Bro George Bennett joined the order Worthing already had a brother called George Bennett who had been a member for several years although at the time he was a sleeping partner and had stopped attending monthly meetings.

The new George Bennett quickly became very active. One George Bennett worked in the wine industry and the other in a bank and so that there was no confusion between the two they called one George Bennett (Wine) and the other George Bennett (Bank). Surprisingly there was also a third George Bennett who moved abroad.

The reason that this has come up now is because news has been received of the death of George Bennett (B) who died on 21st February 2024.

R.I.P.

Dates for your diaries

The annual **Pilgrimage to Aylesford** will take place on Sunday 30th June. 2024

Please arrive in time for Mass at 12pm.

Pilgrimage to Glastonbury will take place on Sunday 14th July 2024 starting with Rosary at 2pm.

Pilgrimage to West Grinstead with the UCM will be on Thursday 12th September 2024. More details will follow later.

Provincial Mass for Deceased Brothers will be on Sunday 17th November at 11.15am at Arundel Cathedral.

District Deputy East

Following a very successful Quiz before Christmas, combined with the Donations from parishioners, with the Keep Christ In Christmas posters campaign in the three surrounding parishes, we were in a position to donate £1200 to various groups. £200 was donated for important minor projects in St Mary Star of the Sea Hastings, £200 to the Good Shepherd St Leonards on Sea, and £200 to SVP at the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary in Bexhill. The remaining £600 was donated equally to the Hastings, Bexhill and Battle Food Banks. We have received letters of thanks from all recipients.

We are hoping that two of our Council members will be raised to full Knighthood on the 30th June at Aylesford

Canon Tom Treherne has confirmed that he will be able, as usual, to lead the day on the joint UCM /KSC pilgrimage to West Grinstead on Thursday 12th September

Bro Sean Harkins DDE

Bognor Regis Council 324

Several Brothers responded to a request to steward at the "Living Nativity" organised by three Churches in Bognor, including Our Lady of Sorrows, on the Saturday prior to Christmas. All agreed that it was a great event.

The council had a Christmas luncheon at the Beachcroft Hotel, organised by the social committee. Several members of Chichester council also attended, and it was enjoyed by all.

All officers have been elected and an FA5 form will follow in due course.

The Council continue to develop the reintroduction of the Squires, following a positive reaction at the recent BoD meeting. Approaches will be made to Catholic Schools in the area. The structure proposed and developed has not excluded young girls but rather has included them in an auxiliary capacity. Our order must, and will be, solely for Catholic men only.

We have ordered the Easter Posters with the intention of placing them strategically around the town centre as well as in the Churches.

The social committee are due to meet soon with the intention of developing a calendar of events

We continue to have the Rosary for Life on the 4th Friday of the Month. All are welcome to join us.

Although we have two or three Brothers currently unwell, most Brothers report being well, and we pray that this continues to be the case.

This will be my last Provincial report as GK of Council 324 as my 4-year term is ending. I pray that Bro Nick Moyart has every success as the incoming GK and thank Bognor council for tolerating me for so long. I look forward to the future challenges and I'm grateful for all the support already being received.

Wishing all Brothers and their families a Happy Easter

Bro Tony Moran GK

ACTION

2023 Nativity Scene Painting Competition Entries were received from:
 Council 280 Worthing & District Council 324 Bognor Regis Council 551 Guildford & Godalming
 My thanks to them for arranging the schools' participation. The quality is impressive.
 Entries were received, judged and posted to Head Office to arrive before the deadline.
 Finalists from Province 34 were:

Group 1	Vida Butti	The Marist Catholic Primary Addlestone	Council 551
Group 2	Yasmin Soltand	St Mary's Catholic Primary Bognor Regis	Council 324
Group 2	Tabitha Shields	The Marist Catholic Primary Addlestone	Council 551
Group 2	Yaryna Zakulizma	St Mary's Catholic Primary Worthing	Council 280



Group 1 Vida Butti



Group 2 Tabitha Shields



Group 2 Yaryna Zakulizma



Group 2 Yasmin Soltand

Brother Michael Akinrele, Supreme Director for Youth and Young People implores us to publicise the KSC youth competitions in our parishes, by newsletter and poster to involve more young people and to bring the name of the KSC to their and their family's attention.

Competition	Age Groups	Received at HO By:
Lent Scene Painting	7-11 11-14 14-18	29 March 2024
Easter Photography	7-11 11-14 14-18	29 March 2024
Prayer Composition	7-11 11-14 14-18	19 April 2024
Essay Writing	11-14 14-18	6 May 2024

Bro Trevor Stauss Action Youth & Social Officer



photos, anecdotes, memories.

If any brother would like to read online about the lives, activities and achievements of our Deceased Brothers, I have everything stored on my computer - all together in book form. I can email it as an attachment if you wish to contact me on:

richardfrance67@gmail.com

Included are photos, anecdotes, memories, Directors' Minutes detailing the farm institute we organised in South Africa, **and newspaper cuttings - in the '30s and '40s the KSC practically ran the Catholic Herald, so there are cuttings from their archive.**

There are episodes ranging from 1924 when the Corpus Christi Procession in the village of Carfin - led by the KSC - was banned due to the wishes of a single Protestant, the Wartime Hostels in Eaton Square, down to the Italian Floods convoy, the 1982 Papal Visit and the later National Action Projects.

All should provide interest or inspiration!

Bro Richard France

Guildford & District Council 551

For the Christmas Season the Council had its two Nativity Cribs set up in the High Street of Guildford, one in the grounds of the Holy Trinity Church, and the other in the shop window of an Optician. Christmas posters and stickers were distributed to the Catholic Parishes of Godalming, Guilford, Knaphill, Woking and West Byfleet.

The Brothers of Council 551 were very pleased to welcome two new brothers, Brendan Brady and one other, who were initiated into the Order.

Fourteen Catholic Junior Schools were invited to submit entries for the 2023 KSC Nativity Scene Painting Competition. We are pleased to report that entries from pupils in Years 1 and 2 from The Marist School were sent to Head Office by PPGK Bro Trevor Stauss. These Junior schools have also been invited to submit entries for the 2024 KSC Lent Painting Competition, and four Senior Schools have been contacted, inviting their participation in the 2024 KSC Prayer Composition and the 2024 KSC Essay Writing Competitions.

The Council arranged for a talk to be given by Marie Norbury from PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) at St Dunstan's Church, Woking, on the evening of Wednesday 17th January 2024. 42 people attended the Talk, and we were very pleased that Bishop Richard Moth was able to attend. The talk was both interesting and inspiring, and gave an insight into the need for the spiritual welfare of prisoners.

The next TALK will be held at St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth on morning of Saturday 18th May 2024 and will cover the topic 'What Is It Like to be A Benedictine Monk'.

We wish all the Brothers and their families a fruitful Lent and a happy Easter celebration.

Bro Roderick O'Connor GK



**December 2023 KSC Nativity Crib
outside Holy Trinity Church, Guildford**

PUBLIC TALK

What is it like to be a Benedictine monk?

<p>Sat 18 May 2024</p>	<p>10am - 11.30am (9am Mass) St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth Retiring collection for the monks</p>
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Chilworth, England

ST AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY

A Roman Catholic Benedictine Monastery

CHICHESTER COUNCIL 546

We continue to visit or phone our two sick brothers.

We recently managed to sell, all of our allocation of Grand National tickets in one weekend, although traditionally we have sold them over two weekends. We have therefore requested a larger allocation for next year.

We are meanwhile planning another Fish 'n Chip & Quiz evening. We had been hoping to hold one in September, but since one of our key members – who was also our Grand Knight, at that time – was in hospital, we had to place the event on hold.

After the success of our Race Night last year, we intend to hold another one in the parish this summer.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our new Provincial Grand Knight, Bro. Tony Moran, who has been a good friend to our Council.

Bro Richard France

Welcome

**Two new Brothers were
recently admitted at
Guildford & Godalming
Council 551**

Welcome to

**Brother Brendan Brady
And one other Brother**

**We wish you a long and
happy
Membership in the Order of
The Knights of St Columba**

Membership

Nationally, the KSC website has a feature, where interested men can register their interest with the Knights which is then passed on to the area where the gentleman lives. During the last KSC year (October 22 to October 23), we had three hundred of these contact emails. Sixty-two men joined the Order in this time. Men have joined by other means too of course but the question arises: where are these men disappearing to? It is important that these enquiries are followed up especially as it is a lifeline for us and such an easy way to increase our Membership.

<https://ksc.org.uk/membership/>

Bro John Hydes, MO Council 280, Worthing which currently has a total of 18 Brothers, states that a gentleman called Giuseppe Regnante, a parishioner from English Martyrs church, has attended October and November and December Council meetings. Another gentleman from English Martyrs church, Francis Hanscombe, attended our October Council meeting. On 22nd January 2024, GK and MO had a meeting with Giuseppe Regnante, (and his wife Bridget), and they were provided with an overview of the Ritual, Rules and Constitution of the Order. His application for membership has been submitted to the Council. Well done Council 280 who are to be congratulated on their membership progress on membership.

Brother Hugh had a meeting with Canon David Parmiter on Friday 12th January 2024, and it has now been agreed that Bognor Council will do the Recruitment Drive at Arundel Cathedral.

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.

Welfare

This quarter has been a quiet one with little to report on, bar the death in December of our Provincial Secretary Bro Pat Coates also Fr Stephen Ortiger, former Abbot of Our Lady, Help of Christians at Worth Abbey who died on 27th January 2024.

Although not the parish priest, Fr Stephen was Priest in Residence at Our Lady Star of the Sea, East Preston and celebrated the Masses.

Deceased Brothers:

Former Provincial Secretary
Bro Pat Coates Hastings Council 630
Died 29th December 2023

A good support at the funeral by 25 brothers and a Guard of Honour for his entry and departure from the church impressed parishioners and guests.

Former Grand Knight
Bro David Mc Meekin Eastbourne Council
433 Died 12th February 2024

Bro Hugh Brentnall - Provincial Spiritual & Welfare Officer

Change in Officers for 2024

Starting with the PGK there will be a number of officers changing at the start of the KSC year.

**Your new Provincial Grand Knight is
Bro Tony Moran**

**Provincial Secretary is
Bro Charles Yarham**

**Bognor Regis Grand Knight is
Bro Nick Moyart**

**Chichester Grand Knight is
Bro John Partridge**

**Hastings Grand Knight is
Bro Sean Harkins**

**Worthing Grand Knight is
Bro Tim Moss**

Worthing Council 280

We started 2024 with our traditional New Year's Day Mass. This year it took place at St Michael's, Hayling Rise and was followed by refreshments, both were well supported. Our thanks to the ladies who kindly provided them.

Following membership drives at three local churches English Martyrs' Goring-By-Sea, St Joseph's Rustington and St Catherine's Littlehampton in 2023, we are pleased to report that we have so far received and accepted an application for Membership from one interested gentleman. Our Membership Committee had considered a recruitment at Arundel parish but this has been deferred for Bognor Council to pursue as they are geographically nearer.

The Council with wives, widows and friends met together for a pre-Christmas meal on 9th December at a local restaurant which was enjoyed by all..

Christmas gift vouchers were distributed to our eight widows. Brothers subscribed to send their greetings to each other via our annual eChristmas card which raised £100 for the Worthing Churches Homeless Project, Turning Tides.

Brothers delivered the pulpit address and arranged collections for the White Flower Appeal in support of SPUC on 13/14th January, at various parishes.

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 provide a Race Night on May 18th at St Oscar Romero School BN12 5AF, 7:30pm. If brothers from other Councils would be interested to see how it works they would be most welcome. Please contact me for tickets 07799 822104.

We have two changes of officers for 2024 – Our new GK will be ex Secretary Brother Tim Moss. Brother Hugh Brentnall will be our new Secretary, my best wishes to both in their new roles.

My thanks to all members of Council 280 for their support during my time as their Grand Knight.

Bro Trevor Stauss GK

Hastings and Rother Valley 630

We at Council 630 have 14 Brothers that meet at 7.00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month at the John Fisher Room, St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, St Leonards on Sea. The attendance does fluctuate but recently, I am pleased to say that it has been steady and we have had a number of potential new brothers attending.

I am very happy to inform you all that we had a recruitment campaign at the Parish of the Good Shepherd, St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th of August 2023. We are now planning a recruitment drive at weekend Masses on 16th and 17th March at the Catholic Parish of Bexhill. This will involve a pulpit address by our brilliant Membership and Development Officer Brother Flavio, and fellow Brothers handing out leaflets and taking details of interested Parishioners.

Our Council has always been good at raising money for charities and even more so in recent years. We held a very successful charity quiz in November 2023 and continued the Christmas and Easter poster distributions in all our local Parishes raising a lot of money for our charities. This has enabled us to donate £1200 to local charities, the best ever result. This sum was divided between Foodbanks Hastings, Bexhill and Battle; as well as our local Parish of the Good Shepherd St. Leonards on Sea; St. Mary Star of the Sea Hastings Old Town and the Catholic Parish of Bexhill on Sea.

We are now looking forward to our KSC Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory on Sunday 30th June 2024. We hope to have our two Brothers Noel and Michael promoted and receiving their full Knighthood at the ceremony along with many other Brothers.

This will be my last Provincial Meeting as the GK of Council 630 and I will like to take this opportunity to thank all my Brothers for giving me this opportunity. I will also like to thank all Brothers at Provincial level for welcoming me and guiding me the past 3 years. I am very happy to inform you that our new GK is the very able Brother Sean Harkins, as you all know he has been a Provincial Officer for many years.

Bro Fidelis Okoliko GK

Provincial Officers and Councils 2024

<p><u>Provincial Grand Knight</u> Tony Moran 01903 774804 tonymoran07@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Provincial Chaplain</u> Fr David Osborne david.osborne@abdiocese.org.uk</p>
<p><u>Provincial Secretary</u> Charles Yarham 01243 582908 / 07885 152876 rooksfold@btinternet.com</p>	<p><u>Imm Past Provincial Grand Knight</u> Solomon Ezobi 01424 576621, Mobile 07474 934750 pgk_province34@ksc.org.uk</p>
<p><u>Provincial Finance</u> Bertie Grogan 07714 763862 bertie.grogan@live.co.uk</p>	<p><u>Provincial Spirituality & Welfare</u> Hugh Brentnall 07724 628083 radoc1971@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>Provincial Warden</u> Rod Barker 07729 936666. barkeruk@btinternet.com</p>	<p><u>Provincial District Deputy East</u> Sean Harkins 01424 442018 judesean@hotmail.com</p>
<p><u>Provincial Action & Youth</u> Trevor Stauss 01903 366152 trevor.stauss@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p><u>Provincial Membership and Development</u> Stephen Horsman 01293 540112 spe.horsman@btinternet.com</p>

Council Grand Knight	Meeting time	Council meeting Venue
<p>Bognor Regis 324 Nicholas Moyart 01243 861340 nickmoyart@gmail.com</p>	2nd Mon 7.30 pm	St Peregrine's Hall, The Parish Centre, Hislop Walk, Bognor Regis
<p>Brighton 277 Paul Lowry 01273 565437 pelowry@aol.com</p>	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>
<p>Chichester 546 John Partridge 07951 243128</p>	3rd Mon 7.pm	St Richard's, Cawley Road Chichester
<p>Crawley 358 Stephen Horsman 01293 540112 spe.horsman@btinternet.com</p>	4th Tuesday 7.30pm	The Friary Not currently meeting
<p>Eastbourne 433 Rod Barker 07729 936666. barkeruk@btinternet.com</p>	2nd Mon 3pm	Venue varies. Please check with GK
<p>Hastings 630 Sean Harkins 01424 442018 judesean@hotmail.com</p>	3rd Tues 7.30pm	St Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs Magdalen Road. St Leonards-on-Sea.
<p>Guildford & Godalming 551 Roderick O'Connor mocandroc.uk@gmail.com)</p>	3rd Mon 8pm	St Pius X, Lauston Close, Merrow, Guildford, GU1 2TS
<p>Worthing 280 Tim Moss 01903 417886 Timothy.moss@sky.com</p>	2nd Tues 7.45 pm	English Martyrs Goring Way, Goring, West Sussex, BN12 4UH

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