



# KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

## PROVINCE 41 - WESTMINSTER **ROUNDABOUT**

Councils in  
Province 41 Westminster

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PROVINCE 30 SINCE APRIL 1994  
ISSUE No. 180  
JAN - FEB 2024

**North London - Edmonton - Hanwell - Palmers Green - St Albans - Willesden Green - Hayes - Sudbury - Mill Hill - Wood Green - Chiswick - Cockfosters - Hemel Hempstead - Enfield - Harrow & District - Letchworth & Baldock - Stevenage - Hoxton Square - Islington - Northfield - Uxbridge - H.Wycombe - Feltham - Yeading - Whitton - Wembley - Thames Valley - Sudbury**



Brothers, Fathers, Widows, family and friends, this year we celebrate a great Provincial Project success, sponsored by our brothers at Council 422 High Wycombe in aid of the Wycombe Homeless Connection. As the winning project for 2023/4 exceeded their original target and Brother Paul Hopgood presented a cheque of over £7000 to the charity. The Provincial Project is the main annual project which is chosen from several charities put forward by some of our twelve councils. Province 30 have in the past three years raised thousands for the street children in Malawi, Uganda, and Ethiopia. Our Maidenhead Council fundraised for the Widows in Kenya last year. We raised £10,000 for the Thames Hospice who provide free palliative care to Cancer and other terminally sick people. It is time for our Councils to put forward a bid for a new charity for 2024. Through the amalgamation of three provinces, this year we can have more and more choice of charities as over 27 Councils have been invited to bid for sponsorship. By April we will be launching the winner, and we will be kicking off our new 2024 Charity Provincial project. Success will depend on our brothers, their families, and friends as well as the communities in over thirty parishes where Province 41 work for those less fortunate than us. I look forward to your energy and support on making the new project another success.

Covid has really been a disaster in more and more ways than what the media tell us over the airways. Of course, many will grieve over the loss of family members and friends, but the pandemic has been a life changer for the country in many other ways which are not in the news. The Knights as an order has suffered on many fronts. Many Councils stopped face to face meetings and even to this day have not restarted their monthly meetings. As a result, several Knights became unsure of what their council was doing, and some have walked away. The work in our communities has also suffered considerably, and to this day the work we used to do in our parishes and schools is not back to pre-Covid days. It became necessary to look at membership status after the pandemic and the Board decided, that some provinces were so badly hit that a merger of the provinces was necessary. Region 7 was front runner in completing the merger by October. As the Provincial Grand Knight elect of the newly formed Province 41, I was lucky that the Provincial Team of Westminster Western had been very active on many fronts and most of the administrative work was already in place. This was not universal in the other Westminster provinces. We are discovering Councils who have been lost and some of the brothers have left us. The task of combining three provincial documentations, to the same standard, fit for the twenty-first century is not easy. I am grateful to the Provincial Grand Knights who will be stepping down and for several of the new brothers in the councils that I've inherited who are very cooperative and helpful in getting everything ready for April 2024 when Province 41 is launched.

Many other organisations have embraced new technology and often run their monthly meetings online using Zoom or Microsoft Teams, but many of the Knights membership cannot find themselves able to absorb IT. Some indeed do not even have an Email address, and communications can be difficult at times. The KSC Board of Directors and several other knights are already well into the technology and conduct regular online meetings. Some councils in Province 30 were also well on to online council meetings during the pandemic, and now prefer not to go out in the cold, wet weather, on dark nights, often driving miles to the venue and some councils already meet on-line or provide the facility to join F2F meetings through an online laptop logged on their parish meeting. In preparation for April the Provincial team elect, will be running team meetings and seminars after Christmas so that we can get used to adopting the one standard way of working, across all the 27 councils we look after.

Finally I want to take this opportunity of thanking all brothers who I have worked with in the past year, wishing you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year. • *Tony Berkeley Provincial Grand Knight Province 30*

# WELL DONE..... CO.442 & PROVINCE30

## Province 30 Provincial Project 23 2023



As you are all well aware, homelessness is increasing, with more people ending up on the streets. One charity that is working to prevent this happening is Wycombe Homeless Connection, which, belying its name, covers all of the south of Buckinghamshire and links in with other surrounding charities. They help over 800 (and rising) people a year avoid ending up on the street, with free legal services, working with the Local councils, and social housing associations, landlords, and so on. With rents rising faster than benefits, and small landlords giving up in the market – hence rising evictions - it is becoming more critical that we all help. Province 30 chose this as our Project for 2023. We have had a wonderful response from our Councils. Of particular note was a sponsored Kayaking from Council 984, where Brother Gordon Ellis raised a spectacular £1264, and a Sponsored Walk from Council 422 which raised £2300 Our target of £5000 was well and truly broken. A cheque for £7000 was handed to Wycombe Homeless Connection on Friday 24th November. ●



### FUND RAISING

Council 163 Hanwell held their annual Christmas Fayre on 2nd December at their church hall at Our Lady and St Joseph Church in Hanwell.

Teamwork amongst the brothers make this fundraiser a success each year, and this year was no different. The Organising committee lead by the Grand Knight Bro Mario Barreto and Bro Rosario Fichardo collected the bottles from some very generous donors around the local business, friends of the Knights and well wishers.

Setting up - is usually the physical part of the event and takes most of the effort. On the day Brother Errol Rodrigues and Bro Benjamin Almeida manned the gates. Bro Denis Barry donated a massive turkey which was also raffled on the day.

Attracting interest and selling thickets included Bro Mario Barreto, Bro Finbar, Bro Erwin and Bro Francis.

At the end of the day 10% of the profit went to the local parish. ●

# Supreme Council summary

Now that the dust has settled, and Christmas is over, it might be a good time to pass down some of the work that took place at Edinburgh Supreme Council 2023. Just a brief feedback and I am sure the full minutes will eventually be available.

The first BOD report on Finance did raise some questions about money loaned from the Benevolent Fund [BF] to the Central Fund [CA] did not seem to decrease despite repayments, and some question about money the BF paid to the CA towards special needs claims etc did not show either. But what was more concerning was that the CA had been overspent by £36K by March 2023. There were issues about non payment of membership money from councils and also quite an increase in spending by the BOD which also included costs of the Regional Directors. Questions were raised querying why subs should be raised when there were queries on the finance report and some economy measures had not yet come through. It seemed that the increase of £2 in dues and Golden Jubilarians fees was rushed and agreed too quickly when pragmatically one should aim to spend less rather than squeeze more money out of the membership. All in all there were questions to be answered and Supreme Knight had set up an online meeting on 5th December to iron out some of the issues.

A motion to admit women as full members of the order was defeated. A motion to purchase software that would keep an accurate membership database was also defeated due to costs involved. A motion to introduce long service [10-year cycle] awards, failed due to costs involved.

Bro Danny O' Hearchai SD Membership director said that membership now stood at 2476, and that numbers of new members were up while lapsations had decreased over the year. The Order welcomed two new councils had been elected, and that the Relics tour of the country had raised interest in the order and generated new members.

Bro Sean Mulligan SD Welfare and Spirituality said that due to the current cost of living crisis we should be more mindful of our widows, housebound and brothers who may not be showing up at meetings, maintaining our contact to ensure that all was ok. He said that the BOD decision to pay widows £250 had cost the order £95K and there was still £500K in the Benevolent Fund. Bro Sean was standing down after several years in the post and the newly elected Welfare and Spirituality Director was Bro Barry Johnston.

Bro Michael Akinrele SD for Youth said that the Youth Seminar this year had been cancelled due to cost and lack of interest. However the Order supported attendance to World Youth Day in Portugal. He attended the FLAM Event and the March for Life in London. Awards were made for the youth competition winners. There was some discussion on change of dates for painting Competitions and the knock-on effect on our local schools; this was led by Bro Tony Berkeley PGK Westminster Western and By Bro Michael Gallagher PGK Province 14. The changes for both the Nativity and Easter competition would mean the Province 30 entries would not be in time to participate in the national shortlist and would only be awarded Provincial certificates. All attempts to make the SD and his committee to reconsider failed. Province 27 East Angela won the Madonna Oaks Trophy for their Youth work.

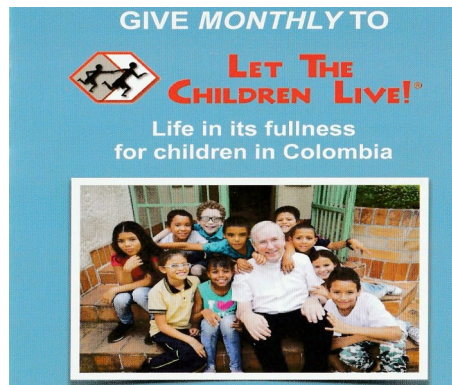
Bro Stephen McMillian SD for Action and Social said the £7.5k was raised by the National Draw, money that goes towards the work we do with the Youth. He suggested that there may be scope for an Christmas and/or Easter Raffle—watch this space. The Order was considering how to fund a St Michael archangel statue tour of Scotland ! Bro Stephen stressed the importance of fundraising and regretted that the 200-club had only attracted 145 subscriptions. The SPUC Rosary 40-hour adoration and other Rosary schemes only show low attendances only attracting an average 20 brothers out of a membership of over 2000. The National Action Project—Let the Children Live helping kids on the streets in Columbia benefitted from a £5K donations raised nationwide in the first year, maybe we could do better in the second year. The new National Action Project 2024/26 starting in October 2024 was chosen from three presentations. The winner was the ALMA MATER project presented by Bro Charlie McCluskey. This is a SPUC sub-project in Scotland to help young student who are pregnant by helping and encouraging them to keep their baby as they continue with their College/University studies.

Bro Sean Smith SD Media - re-elected for a further term, spoke about the KSC website and encouraged brothers to visit the site frequently. It was a good source for all type of forms and news about the Order, and now replaces the eColumbia, and he looks forward to more input from councils and provinces. Facebook is now open to the public.

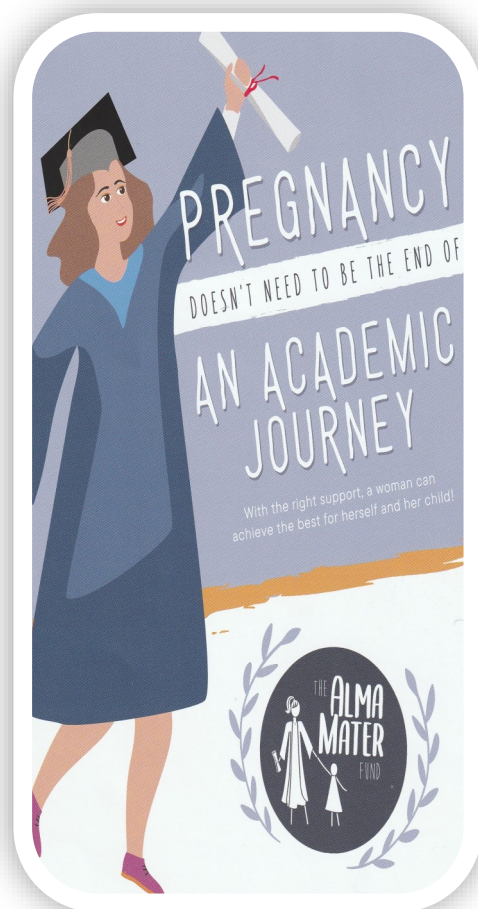
There was a debate about the decision of the Board about merging of provinces, the removal of Regional Directors level and how this would produce cost savings while at the same time also reflect the reduced membership. ●

# NATIONAL PROJECT 2024

At Supreme Council in October this year we were asked to vote for the National Project that follows on from the current project “Let the Children Live” which will finish its two-year term during the last quarter of 2024.— Still plenty of time to top fundraise for this outgoing and worthy project.



The next projects that were up for competition were, Firstly The CAFOD – **Marsabit (Kenya) Resilience Livelihood Project**- Presented by Bro Richard Mitchell (PGK) This project is linked to a need for Water in this district. The area is about the size of Scotland and already as some wells but a draught in the last 5 of 6 years means more wells need to be dug. This project would help the local people’s cattle herds, give work to ladies, and help grow their own food in fertile lands.



The second project was **Hands Around the World** – Presented by Bro Mike Haden (Jersey GK) - This project started in 2012 in Rwanda to help disadvantaged children and young people giving them a chance to share skills, improve teaching and learning conditions the third project

was **Alma Mater** – Presented by Bro Charlie McCluskey Past Supreme Knight). This service (via SPUC) is operating in Scotland and they would like to make it available throughout the UK. It is there to help young Students who are pregnant, and to help and encourage them to keep their child as they continue their College/University studies. Each project bid was made to the floor by its sponsor and in the customary manner a vote was taken and Alma Mater project won the day.

The project will launch in October 2024 and councils are asked to put this project on their ACTION agenda in the next council meetings and to be able to familiarise themselves with what the aims of the project on how the Alma Mater fund will help young university student avoid aborting their babies and with help continue with their studies.

Councils may wish to order project A5 leaflets and A3 posters to advertise the work of Alma Mater Fund directly from email : [info@almamaterfund.org.uk](mailto:info@almamaterfund.org.uk). You can also call or text WhatsApp 07849 088244. Why don't you start straight away by obtaining some A5 leaflets for your church porch. ●

**Pregnancy doesn't have to be the end of an academic journey.**

**With the right support, a woman can achieve the best for herself and her child.**

# Remembrance Mass at Westminster Cathedral

As its customary, Southern Area Remembrance Mass for our deceased Brothers was organised by Bro Roger Khan and Bro John Boniface who invited all the brothers and their families to come for the service on 20th November 12:00 Mass.

Its an event that not only remembers our past brothers, but also sets the background for all to see, for the Order of the Knights of St Columba. We were happy to welcome our Supreme Knight Bro Harry Walsh and .the Director for Spirituality and Welfare Bro Michael Akinrele and three Regional Directors Bro Rosario Fichardo, Bro Melvin Carty and Bro Alan Burns.

We were also happy to host several of our widows who joined us for the service to remember their husbands. Following the service Bro Roger Khan arranged lunch at nearby venue where brothers were able to meet and socialise with guests. ●



## From our Regional Director



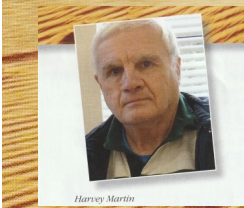
Wishing you all a very Happy New year for 2024. How time flies. Hope you all had a good Christmas with your families and friends. The new year brings good tidings and a new province erected as province 41. Must congratulate all the new officers in the new province. Brother Tony is doing a wonderful job sorting things out. He has arranged an officers zoom meeting for early January where we will meet all the officers elect.

The supreme council meeting 2023 went very well apart from the weather. That did not affect us as we were indoors. It was held in Edinburgh and the reason it was held there was that they were celebrating their 100 years. At the meeting lots of things were discussed and one of the things was the dues which has been raised by £2.00 for the forth coming year 2024/2025. This is mainly because many councils have not paid their dues to head office.

The other thing that came out was that as from October 2024 there won't be any regional directors so that means I will not be a regional director as from November 2024. Can I just say it was an honour to represent you as the director as I got to meet a lot of new brothers and visiting the different provinces. I also visited other provinces apart from the Westminster provinces.

The Deceased Mass held at Westminster on the 19 th of November for the brothers and their Families was well attended. The Supreme Knight Brother Harry Walsh with his wife was here with a few other directors. I now look forward to working with the new province and give all my assistance. ● Rosario RD7

# THE JOURNEY



The Nativity story is well known even by our children, but Harvey Martin one of our parishioners at the Sacred Heart Comboni missions, presented this in no less manner than any of the current reporters could have done, and I could not resist sharing this with our Brothers and their family. .... Joseph was packing the donkey with essential goods; bread and fruit for the journey; and blankets for the freezing nights.

**“We have to obey the emperor, Mary, You know the trouble the Romans can cause.” “But Joseph, I am close to delivering my child. Am I to give birth in the desert ?”**

Joseph began filling wineskins with water. He shared Mary's concerns; for the journey was long and could be dangerous. South along the Jordan river; over the hills surrounding Jerusalem and downhill into Bethlehem; the town of his birth. The forests in the Jordan valley could hold problems. There were wild bears and boars amongst the trees; as well as robbers; but they were travelling with a caravan of people, experienced in such undertakings. Still, he was concerned for Mary. The journey was tough for even the hardest; but for a pregnant woman, well...

**“Mary,” he said. “We have ten days of travel; and will stay overnight in Jerusalem. I’m sure there will be experienced women with us who can act as midwives along the way. You won’t be alone. Lets just look ahead to Bethlehem and I’m sure we will find comfortable accommodation. “I trust you Joseph to take care of me; but do you really understand who it is I carry in my womb?”**

Joseph was silent, pondering the words of Mary; wondering how much she herself really understood. He carried on preparing things for the journey, and then it was time to leave.

In the early hours just before dawn, they left the house to join the caravan and headed south. As they travelled Joseph reflected on the history of his ancestors. The journey of Adam and Eve, away from Eden onto a wild country they did not know. Noah and family, carried by the waters of the flood. How was it for them to step out once again onto dry land? Abraham called by the Lord to a journey far from his homeland; the Israelites fleeing from Egypt; and wandering in the desert for 40 years. He thought about life itself as being a journey. Who knows where it might lead. He considered Mary's question. He recalled the dream he'd had; and the words from the Angel, **“He will save his people from their sins.”** And still he wondered who exactly it was in the womb of Mary. Certainly, a miracle had happened. Mary was a young girl and a virgin; and obviously now very pregnant. If it hadn't been for the Angel, he would have quietly dismissed her.

The caravan travelled on, a journey of 90 miles to Bethlehem. South along the flatlands of the Jordan river; then west >>



<< over the hills surrounding Jerusalem and a downhill trek to their destination. The heat of the sun exhausted them during the day, and the freezing nights made sleep difficult to attain. The group consisted of merchants on camels, carrying carpets and spices to sell in the towns along the way. There were ox-drawn carts; families perhaps looking for a new life in the city. Many with donkeys led by the head of the family the steep hills, the women riding or sometimes walking the steep hills; sometimes a height of 3000 feet. Even the camels struggled at times.

After 7 days they arrived at Shechem; a half way point onto the journey. A place where Abraham and Jacob had built altars to the Lord. It was Samaritan country; enemies of the Jews.

Joseph reflected again on the history through which the trek was taking them. Shiloh, a town close by where the boy Samuel first heard the call of the Lord as a young man. He wondered to himself, were he and Mary his young bride were about to be part of the history of their ancestors.

While the people settled down for the night, Mary and Joseph walked a short way across the dusty landscape. The night was clear and they gazed up at the stars. Mary spoke looking at Joseph .....**“I’m Struggling Joseph, and we are only half way there. I wonder if we will make it time; so that I have a place somewhere I can give birth safely.”**

Joseph could see the strain and tiredness in Mary’s eyes, **“Its Caesar that calls us; but isn't it also the Lord. You yourself have told me the Angel’s message to you; that he who you carry will be called the Son of God. Could this be the Messiah we have been waiting for ? And scripture tells us that he would be born in Bethlehem.”**

Mary took the hands of Joseph, **“Yes Joseph and I often recall Gabriel’s message to me; it gives me strength; but I grow weary and the journey is long and is a great test against what I know to be true.”**

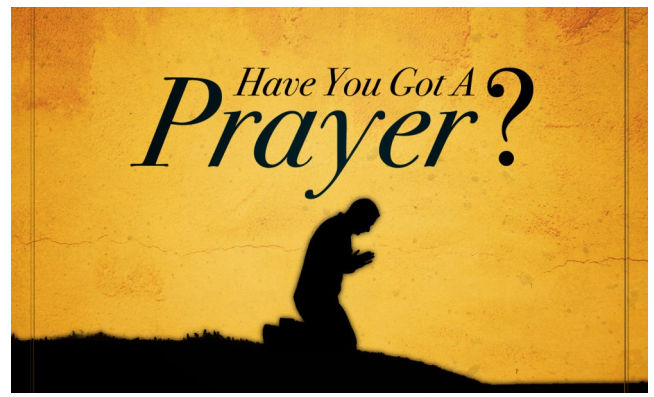
**“Mary, think about our ancestors. They travelled unknown paths and endured great suffering, but the Lord delivered every one of them and will deliver us.”**

They held hands and walked back to the camp. The camel drivers were seated around the fire drinking wine and laughing. Women were nursing their young; with men at each corner guarding all against any sudden attack.

Suddenly they both felt protected and at peace; and the next morning they would head once again resolutely toward Bethlehem and the fulfilment of the Angel’s word. ●

Joseph run ahead to try and get accommodation, but there was a census, and the town was busy. Every inn he tried was full up. There was no place for them at the inn. Eventually the inn keeper took pity and offered Joseph shelter in the barn at the back of his inn and some help from the womenfolk to help Mary.





**We pray for those in our families, friends, brothers and larger communities, who are sick, housebound, or in hospital and for those who care for them.**

Co163 Hanwell Ann Collins in hospital after fall.

Co163 Hanwell Bro Joe Lam housebound

Co163 Hanwell Bro Pier Finbar who is unwell.

Co295 Harrow Bro Adrian Gibbons father unwell in nursing home.

Co248 Edmonton Bro Alphonso Douglas suffering dementia. Prayers for his wife and family also.

Co295 Harrow Dist Bro Jim Quinn's brother in hosp.

Co295 Harrow Dist Bro John Obrien recovering

Co295 Harrow Dist Bro Iji Okumah in Hospital.

Co295 Harrow Dist Bro Pat Fogarty recovering after a recent fall.

Co984 Thames Valley Bro Jon Duus Jensen

Co984 Thames Valley Eileen Berkekeley RIP

Co422 H Wycombe Bro Chris Edwards RIP Dec (2015)

Co422 H Wycombe Mrs Francilla Edwards dementia.

Co422 H Wycombe - Prayers for all widows.

Co514 Feltham Prayers December prayer for deceased brothers.

Co984 Thames Valley Bro Brian Lynch housebound

Co984 Thames Valley Bro Jon Duus Jensen

Co984 Bro Peter Reid having hospital treatment.

Lord, it is so easy to get caught up in the hectic pace of life.

Pressure to do more and be more, comes from all sides.

Father, give me serenity, and help me to hear Your voice above the noise.

You are my rock Father,  
and when I remember that,  
everything else falls into place

**Amen**

Holy Spirit,  
give me wisdom and  
the courage of my convictions,  
as I make life decisions  
today and every day.

Some may be simple others complex  
but all require honesty and quiet  
reflection.

I pray that, with your guidance,  
my heart will be open to God's  
will and what ever choices,  
I am asked to make.

**Amen**





**Council meetings in  
Province 30 via TEAMS**

**Provincial Committee meetings**

**Next cycle of Provincial meetings**

**Prov Council 6th March 2024 F2F Venue to be advised.  
At 8.00pm**

**Prov Officers meeting 7th February 2024** using TEAMS  
or ZOOM at 8.00pm.

**Four Prov Committee meetings** starting week **15th to  
18th January 2024** via TEAMS meeting agenda will be  
advised.

**Pope Francis**

Twitter message  
17th December 2023



Let us [#PrayTogether](#) before the  
Nativity scene for children who will  
experience a difficult Christmas in places  
where there is war, in refugee camps, in  
situations of profound misery. •

**Pope Francis turned 87 years old on  
Sunday, 17th December.**

**COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Dates falling around the festive  
celebrations may be changed —  
check with the council Grand Knights

COUNCIL	DAY	JAN	FEB
H.Wycombe Council 422 Googlemeet	2nd Monday - 8.00pm	13th	11th
Thames Valley Council 984 zoom	3rd Monday - 12.00noon	20th	18th
Sudbury Council 267	2nd Tuesday - 7.00pm	14th	12th
Cranford/Feltham Council 514	2nd Tuesday - 8.00pm	14th	12th
Hayes Council 243	2nd Monday - 8.00pm	13th	11th
North Harrow Council 948	2nd Thursday - 8.00pm	9th	14th
Yeading Council 963	3rd Tuesday - 8.00pm	21st	19th
Wembley Council 982	2nd Sunday - 12.30pm	12th	10th
Uxbridge Council 399	4th Sunday - 1:00pm	26th	24th
Whitton Council 970 Zoom	4th Tuesday - 8.00pm	28th	26th
Hanwell Council 163 Zoom	4th Wednesday - 8.00pm	22nd	27th
Harrow & Distr Council 295	2nd Tuesday - 1.00pm	14th	12th



An Invite...EVERYONE WELCOME  
Every Monday to Friday  
3.00pm  
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Passcode 2BKjRr  
SPONSORED BY  
Co982 Wembley  
Prov30 Westminster Western



KSC Collar purses— A new source has been established in Jerusalem at the Palestine Conflict Transformation Centre. Now available from Co.344 Bro Alex Rugg for £25 plus £1.00 p/p. **Contact : <a href="mailto:alexrugg@msn.com">alexrugg@msn.com**

### Roundabout Distribution

A reminder to Grand Knights. This issue has been forwarded direct to all the officers in the Provincial directory. Please forward Roundabout to all other Brothers of your Council who are 'online' and any other persons who may be interested. During this period of isolation, when normal Council meetings are not being held, printed copies of Roundabout are not being produced.

Tony Berkeley – Editor

The Editor welcomes contributions for the next issue of Roundabout which should reach him by Thursday 22nd February 2024  
Opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors only.

### **ZOOM FATIMA DEVOTION PRAYER GROUP**



Council 984 Thames Valley run a Fatima Devotion prayer group that prays the Rosary every week day Monday to Friday at 1.30pm. A flyer is produced for each week showing the ZOOM ID & PASSWORD. Any one can check these access details by looking at [www.council984.co.uk](http://www.council984.co.uk) select the week's flyer and the access code - come and see, or Email [thamesvalley25@talktalk.net](mailto:thamesvalley25@talktalk.net) to be added to the weekly zoom detail flyer.

## **WE ARE RECRUITING FOR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS.**

**Call KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA - contact LINDSAY MEERABUX  
Our Provincial Membership officer EMAIL :  
[lindsmeer@hotmail.com](mailto:lindsmeer@hotmail.com)**

The Place to call for all sorts of help, when you think you have exhausted all avenues, it may be a good idea to have a chat with AGE UK.

Café & restaurants cup of tea or a cooked meal, Day Centres, Exercise and physical activity, Foot care, Handy person services, Home help, IT training courses ,and Social activities.



For centre near you .....<https://directory.ageuk.org.uk> and enter post code