



# KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

WESTMINSTER WESTERN - PROVINCE 30

## ROUNDABOUT

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PROVINCE 30 SINCE APRIL 1994

ISSUE No. 155

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

Councils in Westminster Western Province 30	Hanwell – Hayes – Sudbury – Harrow & District – Ruislip South Harrow - Uxbridge – High Wycombe - Feltham & Cranford North Harrow - Yeading – Whitton – Wembley – Thames Valley
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### Congratulations to Brother Bertie - Supreme Knight 2019/2020

Greeting Brothers,

It's that time of the year when Christmas is upon us. As this edition will cover Christmas and the New Year, on behalf of all the Provincial Officers I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. How the years have gone by and its twenty years since the millennium!

At the Supreme Council this year the Supreme Knight and all existing directors were re-elected unopposed. Brother Bertie Grogan is now serving his third and final year and we in Province 30 should be very proud of him.

You must be pleased to know that your dues have not gone up and will remain the same as last year.

The national project for the next two years is The John Foster Memorial Home. When details of the project are issued, please make every effort to raise as much funds as you can.

Supreme Council was a short meeting by previous years, starting at 2pm on Friday and finishing on Saturday at 12 noon. This was followed by a celebration Mass in St Andrew's Cathedral at 2.15 pm with so many priests concelebrating, a truly memorable occasion.

Every Supreme Knight during his three years is allowed to give a special award – The Columba Medal - to anyone he feels deserves it. It does not have to be a brother Knight it could be anyone.

The Supreme Knight Brother Bertie found it deserving to give the award to someone very special for all that he does for the Order including keeping all the Provincial Officers and Grand Knights on their toes. I know he is

well respected by all the brothers of the Province. Will you please join me in congratulating our very own Brother Michael Bagness on receipt of this award he is also the editor of our Roundabout that you are reading right now.

We recently had a Recruitment Drive in Wembley and I was very pleased to hear that we have recruited three new brothers soon to be initiated. I must thank Brothers Nestor Baniqued and John Hibberd for their hard work.

I know some councils are having problems recruiting new brothers. It would help if you all attended Committee and Provincial Council meetings and air your views. We have to discuss the membership problem together and I'm sure we can overcome any obstacles.

We have just had our annual Chaplain's Dinner and the turnout was fantastic. I thank all the councils that attended and I really appreciate your support.

How time flies and it's almost at the end of my three years as your Provincial Grand Knight. A new Provincial Grand Knight will be elected at our December Provincial Council meeting and I ask you all to give him your full support just as you have given me. I would love to see all councils present at this meeting showing your support for the Province.

**BEFORE MASS WE TALK TO GOD,  
AFTER MASS WE TALK TO OUR FRIENDS!**

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

*Rosario Fichardo*

Provincial Grand Knight - Province 30

**We continue to Serve God by Serving Others in this year 2019**

## PROVINCIAL 100 CLUB

CASH PRIZES EVERY MONTH

1st Prize - £50.00                      2nd Prize - £25.00  
(Three extra prizes at Christmas)

<b>August</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>No 70</b>	<b>F Barreto</b> <b>CI 163</b>
	<b>2nd</b>	<b>No 16</b>	<b>M Sykes</b> <b>CI 399</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>No 108</b>	<b>CI 963</b>
	<b>2nd</b>	<b>No 26</b>	<b>E Rodrigues</b> <b>CI 163</b>

**T**hank you all for your support for the 100 Club throughout the year.

Whilst being a member is optional your continued support helps us to finance Provincial costs and to keep the Provincial dues as low as they are.

The 100 Club is open to all, including family, friends and neighbours, not forgetting your Council Chaplain.

Please encourage membership from all the Brothers in your Council especially any new brothers who may have recently joined the Council, in fact anyone who is willing to support our Province.

Just a reminder that the 100 Club year is from October 1st 2019 to September 30th 2020, this is to offset the cost and not to be coinciding with the payment of dues.

All renewal notices have been despatched, please renew your membership when requested by your Finance & Administration Officer.

Thank you,

Michael Bagness - 100 Club Organiser.

## Steve Bagness

### Celebrity & Wedding Photographer

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The Editor welcomes all contributions to the next issue which should reach him by Saturday 21st December 2019.

Opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors only.

## The National Rosary Campaign.

The Supreme Knight, Brother Bertie Grogan, launched the Rosary Campaign in December 2018 and it will continue with intentions each month until November 2019, the Month of the Holy Souls.

Please join in praying the Rosary together with your friends in your community.

**The monthly intention for November is:-**

For all children whose lives were lost to abortion.

## Supreme Council - October 2019

*from Bro Michael Bagness*

I was privileged this year to attend Supreme Council in Glasgow, after an absence of some 5 years. It proved to be a positive and enlightening experience, as well as an opportunity to renew old friendships (including meeting up with Fr. Jim Kennedy CMF) and meeting new members. I was also particularly pleased to meet Bro Colin Walsh from the Knights of the Southern Cross, Australia, who is the outgoing president of IACK and present for the IACK meeting which took place immediately after Supreme Council. Colin and I have communicated for a number of years through my sending him Roundabout, so it was lovely to meet him in person. The new president is our former SK, Bro Charlie McCluskey, congratulations to Bro Charlie on this achievement.

My wife Carmel and I were delighted to be a small part of the celebrations for the 100 years of the KSC, and it gave me time to reflect on the past, present and future of our Order.

The numbers of members have certainly decreased, while the enthusiasm for doing good remains constant and the challenges we face today and in the future were unimaginable to P J O Callaghan and those first members who established the Order back in 1919.

I was reminded that it is more important than ever to encourage new members, reinvigorate the members we have and focus on future developments to sustain the Order in a world that appears to be dominated by a secular society that appears to reject religious beliefs and spirituality, and all that the Order stands for.

After Supreme Council closed on the Saturday morning, with much business achieved, including the re-election of Brother Bertie as Supreme Knight, congratulations to Bro Bertie, we enjoyed a joyous celebration of Mass in St Andrews Cathedral in Glasgow,

where our Supreme Knight gave a humbling and honest account of the past and the future of the Order – he spoke well of the great deeds accomplished in the past but also warned of the need, more than ever, to be on guard against the rising tide of secularism.

Saturday evening found us at the Centennial Banquet, and no one was more surprised than I when I was presented with the Columba Cross by the Supreme Knight for services to the Order.



The Columba Cross can be awarded once every term by the Supreme Knight, and I was honoured and privileged to receive this award – I am still not sure what I have done to deserve it, but I have always tried to be supportive to the Order and its key precepts of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.



With the Supreme Knight and Fr Jim Kennedy CMF

I now look forward to our ongoing work, the challenges the restructuring of the Order will bring and how we can contribute to the good work of the Order and the Catholic Church.



With my wife Carmel and Bro Colin Walsh.

Thank you to all those who sent me good wishes on receiving the award. ®

## ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Sunday 3rd November 2019  
at 10.30am

**We remember those brothers of Province 30 who have died since the last Annual Mass.**

**Bro Jim Keating – Hayes CI 243**  
**Bro Vincent Masterson – Harrow & District CI 295**  
**Bro Dominic Clinton – Hayes CI 243**  
**Bro Tony O'Neill – Thames Valley CI 984**

**May their souls and the souls of all deceased Brothers of the Knights of St Columba through the mercy of God – Rest in Peace. Amen.**

**We continue to Serve God by Serving Others in this year 2019**

## KSC Supreme Council - Glasgow

4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019

from Fr Jim Kennedy CMF

I was very happy to receive an invitation to go to Supreme Council as an observer. It was only the second time I have been; the first was many years ago in the Glasgow Central Hotel.



As an Observer you cannot say anything which is difficult for me but it was a very good experience. The first thing that stood out for me was the lack of tension; it was a very fraternal meeting. The resolutions and reports were passed very quickly. People had a chance to speak, and many did. It was good to see younger people joining the Knights in some places and to hear some of them speaking was excellent.

The mixing during meal times and free time gave me a chance to catch up with some Knights and their wives that I hadn't seen for some time. Having the Ecclesiastical Adviser, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP was an inspiration. He told us we are members of God's family. Looking at the past is not just nostalgia but it can help us to go forward. Jesus gave his life for us and invited us to follow him which we are trying to do as Knights.

We can present Christ to others by our example and our actions. We share suffering so that we can share in glory eventually. The Eucharist binds us together in love of Christ and each other. It shows we are part of the universal Church and gives us the strength and grace to fulfil our mission as followers of Christ. We are to be Holy Communion to each other, and our lives to be a part of our contact with Christ.

It was a wonderful Mass in the Cathedral in which we were able to celebrate our Unity, Fraternity and Charity.

The staff at the Marriot Hotel were excellent and the food delicious. All the work that had been done by so many Knights and Head Office to prepare for Supreme Council helped it to go smoothly.

Let us be reinvigorated as we head into the next hundred years.

God bless.

Fr Jim Kennedy CMF

*(Fr Jim Kennedy CMF is a Claretian Missionary, currently a member of the Pastoral Team of St Joseph & St Hugh Catholic Church in Buckden, Cambs. He is also a former Provincial Chaplain to Province 30 holding the office from 2003 to 2005)*

## Recruitment Drive in the Valley

from Bro Tony Berkeley - GK Thames Valley Council 984

St Francis Parish Ascot celebrated 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the church was dedicated. The Pastoral Council prepared three days of celebrations on 5-6-7<sup>th</sup> October. As part of the inauguration event all the active ministries and groups in the parish were invited to set up a table display to advertise their work and where possible recruit more members and helpers.

This was a great opportunity for the Thames Valley council to recruit new members. A table display was set up, and 80% of the council brothers attended, wearing their collars and KSC T-shirts.



The table display included aspects of the Order, with a number of Columba and eColumba, copies of the KSC Centenary booklet, photos from Supreme Council trophy awards, Aylesford pilgrimage and installation of new officers, 'interest' invitation cards, and newly issued enquiry cards. At provincial level we displayed photos from the World Youth Day and lots of displays of the council's projects, fund raising for Marys Meals, Backpack project and the soon to be launched Advent project for the Street Children of Uganda. We displayed several cheque presentations as well as Nativity poster competitions and work with the youth at all seven primary schools who have a splendid record of winning awards at National, Provincial and Local levels.



All the three level collars, Provincial, Council and Membership were on display. The council put together a recruitment pack which included a 'Hello' letter, a sheet 'Learning about the Knights activities', an FAQ sheet and an INVITATION booklet which explained the area covered by the council. Statements about what one gains by joining, information about what the Knights do that they may not be already doing in the parish, a sheet about our annual Walk Project, the charities we support at National, Provincial and at Local level.

Finally we included details of 'next steps' if one is interested in joining us. We produced eight of these packs, some were offered to men who approached our display and three were handed over to prospective possible members of the parish, one to somebody who had just moved to the parish.

We think that this personal approach can be much more successful than standing at the lectern.

We had a special new roll-up banner out on display for the first time since the councils amalgamated with Windsor, Maidenhead, Windsor, Staines and Ascot. I believe this is the best Recruitment drive we've had for years, and although we didn't actually have men queuing to join, we can



only hope, and maybe one or two would come forward. ®

**We continue to Serve God by Serving Others in this year 2019**

## Bro. John Simons 50 Years in the KSC

**B**rother John Simons, a member of Cranford & Feltham CI 514, was recently presented with his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary medal and certificate by GK Bro Victor Olomukoro accompanied by Bro Tom Davies.. The following is a narrative written by Bro John of his time in the Knights.

"I moved to Cranford town, London Borough of Hounslow in 1969 and went to mass where I saw men wearing decorated collars arranging the collection. I asked who they were and was told that they were the Knights of St. Columba and if I wanted to make new friends in the parish, it was a good idea to join them.

I was introduced to a person who was the Grand Knight at the time and was initiated into Council 514. My enthusiasm was soon recognised and I was made the Youth and Action officer and to my surprise Deputy Grand Knight.

I soon fell in the deep end when the then Grand Knight, the late Brother John O'Hanlon died following the sudden death of his young daughter. The Council had over 40 members at the time and was very active with the Youth, Action, Welfare and Membership committee meetings before each Council meeting. The Council ran a Lourdes fund in memory of Bro John O'Hanlon, dinner and dance with numerous parish events together with the youth club. Unfortunately, over the years members and activities have decreased.

From my experience, a personal recommendation and invitation are as good as any Church presentation or Recruitment Drive. Activities, both social and fundraising and giving the responsibility of a council office in early service helps in retention.

One of the activities I organised whilst Grand Knight was combining with other councils from Heston and Twickenham in organising a barbeque (BBQ), disco and beer tent at St. Michael & St. Martin's School in Hounslow for the Provincial project. An attempt was made to claim back Gift Aid for the "Benevolent Funds" paid. I was appointed Provincial Officer for this, and after a lot of hard work; the Head Office abandoned the scheme. Never mind, I enjoyed visiting every council in the Province in this capacity. I also enjoyed being a delegate at the Supreme Council.

I was recently presented with my certificate and golden jubilee medal and I thank you for your friendship.

Yours fraternally,  
Bro. John Simons"



## *Around the Councils . . . . .*

### Hayes Council 243

*from GK Brother Peter Chidwick*

**H**ayes council's home parish, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, held an Activities weekend on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> October Hayes council put together a stand with publicity material supplied by Bro Mike Bagness who was away at Supreme Council and unable to attend, the stall was manned by Peter Chidwick (GK), Jim Cormack (Warden) and Michael Comisky (our newest member). We had a few enquires at the stall over the weekend and have a few leads to follow up so we are hopeful this may bear fruit in the form of new members for the Order. Due to new GDPR data protection regulations names were collected centrally by the parish.

The KSC Centenary Westminster Mass was also attended by several members of the council and their wives. We all found the service in the cathedral inspiring and it has motivated us to work to lay the foundations for the future success of the Order in the next 100 years.



I was pleased to present our newest member Bro Michael Comiskey with his certificates of membership at a recent Council meeting.

We welcome Bro Michael to the Council and Order and wish him every happiness and success in the year ahead.

### Hayes Council 243

*from Bro Michael Comiskey*

**M**any, many years ago I was attracted to the Order when I saw the Knights smartly dressed in their collars directing parishioners to their seats and to and from Holy Communion. However this practice very soon stopped and for me it was out of sight out of mind.

In January this year the Parish organised an activities Sunday when all groups were asked to create a display in an effort to attract new members. I attended this activity and again was attracted to the Knights of St Columba's display. I was invited to attend their next monthly Council meeting on Monday 14th January and have been attending regularly ever since.

I was initiated into the KSC at a Mass in Long Lane on Sunday 28th April. On Saturday 6th July I accompanied a number of the brothers to the Westminster Centenary Mass which I found very enlightening.

I was presented with my Membership Degree certificate by the Grand Knight on 9th September and was honoured to receive it. (*see details above*) I look forward to many years working and participating in the Knights of St Columba. ®

## High Wycombe Council 422

from DGK Brother Stefan Zachary

**C**ouncil 422 High Wycombe held a Sponsored Walk on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September, organised by Brother Paul Hogwood, our treasurer. He put in a great deal of hard work and managed to raise over £1300.00 – breaking all previous records. The proceeds will be split 50-50 between the Wycombe Homeless Connection and



the Council's own charitable events, such as the over 75's party in January.

The walk was in the most beautiful Chilterns scenery around Radnage – a strong recommendation to anyone who appreciates the wonderful

country we live in.

The photo was taken on the final leg.....after a pub break at The Crown Radnage.....which may explain the big smiles.

## Wembley Council 982

from Brother Nestor Baniqued

**A**fter two years Wembley Council 982 became dormant due to three brothers having left the council and I was left alone on my own to struggle but I never thought to leave the Order. Instead I asked Our Lady of Fatima to help me recruit on the 14th April 2019.

I waited for five months with the hope that my recruitment paid off. At last, today Sunday 20th October 2019 my first three members have signed application forms to be members of the Order of KSC - Alleluia! Alleluia! It was a relief that my council will go live again. I would like to say big thank you to Bro Eric Joseph, Bro Rosario Fichardo and Bro John Hibberd during my April Recruitment drive. However, my next recruitment drive will be Sunday 8th December 2019. I am confident my members will increase again for the year 2020.

AVE MARIA -GOD BLESS



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## Chaplain's Dinner 2019

from Bro John Collins

**W**e had a happy event here in Hanwell on the 15<sup>th</sup> October with the annual Chaplain's dinner of Province 30. In total we had forty people in attendance including six priests with our Supreme Knight Brother Bertie Grogan being our guest of honour.

Fr Duncan Adamson our Provincial Chaplain gave a blessing and said the grace before meals.

Brother Bertie Grogan talked about the Order in its hundredth year and also his visit to Rome to meet Pope Francis. It's a busy year for Brother Bertie

Brother Stephen Pound MP was in great vocal form as usual and is hoping to attend more Council meetings as he is not standing for re-election to parliament.

Brother Essie - Grand Knight 163 thanked all who came to the dinner and hoped to see all of you again next year.

Brother Denis Barry - Social Secretary held a free raffle for all the guests, and with Brother Rosario gave out the prizes to the winners.

It was a first class meal catered by Martin of "The Horse Shoe" Northfields and we must thank Jim and Dee for having the bar open for the event.

Fr Duncan thanked all for attending the dinner and wished all a safe journey including the fellow priests. ©



### Dates for your Diary

NOV	6 <sup>th</sup> – Provincial Officers meeting. 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Westminster Mass – 10.30am
DEC	3 <sup>rd</sup> – Provincial Council meeting.

**A Happy Christmas and a  
Good New Year to all our  
Readers everywhere!**

## The Uganda Street Children

This was balloted for at the Provincial Committee meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October to be the Provincial Project for 2019/20.

[http://www.comboni.org.uk/latest\\_read\\_online.html](http://www.comboni.org.uk/latest_read_online.html)

www.southworld.net

# UGANDA

## To Give Dignity To Street Children

Hundreds of children are begging in the streets of Kampala City. A Comboni missionary, Father John Bosco Mubangizi has launched a project "Karamoja Streets Kids". It means - Respect, protection and a future for these children. He outlines this initiative.

For decades, the Karamoja region in the north-east of the country has been characterized by violent conflicts, high levels of poverty, semi-arid conditions and food insecurity. An estimated 82 per cent of the population live in extreme poverty. As a result, the area has been dependent on food aid and donor assistance for decades, with numerous emergency aid programmes.

To survive, many families in Karamoja have decided to send their children into urban centres hoping to get better opportunities. Most of those begging on the streets in Kampala city are Karamojong children and youth.

Not everyone welcomes these street kids from Karamoja. They compete with and face resistance from the older street children and are subjected to caning, or their money is taken away from them. During the rainy season the leaking temporary structures in Karwe and Kisenyi, suburbs of Kampala, where they live are too crowded and they are supposed to contribute some money for this 'accommodation' despite the



poor hygiene. They suffer all kinds of diseases and no proper medical attention is offered to them. They are prone to accidents on the street since their main location is at traffic junctions where cars stop and where they can beg. They are often victims of motorcycle "hit and run" accidents and sometimes sustain fractures from these accidents without medical care. The worst happens when children simply disappear from the streets and are never seen again maybe because of the practice of child sacrifice by witch doctors. Sadly, these children are used as sex slaves, defiled and/or forced into prostitution. Many are impregnated, infected with HIV/AIDS; there is a tremendous number of single mothers, aged 12-25 years old on the streets. Some child mothers can be seen on streets breast-feeding fellow children or carrying them on their backs.

### I went to visit them

I met the Karamojong street children in Kampala in 2015, when I was still Parish Priest of Matany in Karamoja. One day on reaching Kampala Road in Kampala city near Diamond Trust

Bank, about 50 Karimojong children surrounded me chanting my name in Karimojong "Pader Bosco, Pader Bosco"... meaning Father John Bosco. At the beginning, I was surprised, but quickly I interacted with them; one thing I realised was that about 80% of these children were from the Matany area. Most of them were from Lokopo Chapel, one of the churches in the parish. They were my parishioners.

The following day I came back to the same place and asked them to take me to their places of residence and we followed Entebbe Road until we reach Kisenyi-Karwe slum. This is one of the worst slums in Kampala which is a haven for all sorts of vices ranging from smoking tobacco to drug addiction. It is a common practice to see children picking food from dustbins, sniffing aviation fuel and smoking marijuana. Prostitution is rampant, theft, murder, alcoholism and general lawlessness is the order of the day in the Kisenyi slum. Whether you are a child or an adult, life is the same. Children live an adult life but I think they are traumatised by it. At the end it is the innocent Karimojong children, who are new to town life, that suffer most of all. They are suffering the complete denial of their natural entitlements as human beings. At a deeper level of interaction, I found out that some children often go a whole day without any solid food. At night they sleep in groups and in turns in small shabby rooms made of waste and mud to maximise time and space. The first group sleep for 6 hours and then give way to others who sleep for the rest of the night. Over 30 children occupy a room just eight feet by nine. When it rains, they cover themselves with sheets of polythene and stand for the whole night.

These are so-called Out of School children and so are illiterate. They have only one meal a day and sometimes nothing at all. They have no access to any health services. As a result, illnesses go untreated and some die. Most diseases are preventable. For these children, using a toilet is a luxury because the use of a toilet costs an average of 200-300 shillings in the slum. The life of these children is without dignity and their rights as children are denied them.

They are extremely vulnerable and are greatly abused physically, psychologically and sexually. They are victims of commercial sex exploitation and there is no system in place for their protection. Not content with denying these innocent children basic care, education, food, health services and psycho social support, the adults behave towards them like predators.

Seeing these children abandoned, with only the help of God to rely on, made me wonder if we appreciate the value of the gift of life our own and that of the extremely marginalised children on the streets of Kampala.

### We must do something to help

In 2017, I was transferred to the Comboni Missionaries commu-



Comboni Mission • Spring 2019



nity in Kampala and this gave me an opportunity and, at the same time, a challenge to start from scratch for the wellbeing of the Karimojong children in Kisenyi and Karwe.

One year earlier, during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Matany Catholic Parish, in Karamoja, Mons Michael Ilume the then Nuncio to Uganda said during his homily "Matany Parish has celebrated its Golden Jubilee with many pastoral achievements, what remains as the Parish Pastoral challenges are the Matany Children on the streets of Kampala looking for sweets that are never there...." This statement struck deep into my heart and the voice I felt within me told me I had to do something for these children... but I didn't know, what...?



Finally, Bishop Damiano Guzzetti of Moroto Diocese discussed the question of the Karimojong children with the Archbishop of Kampala Cyprian Lwanga. They decided to start a pastoral initiative to help the children under Nsambya Parish.

Knowing the Karimojong language has helped me a lot. Children feel at ease when they can talk and understand. For a year now, I have been going every Sunday to the slum in Karwe and celebrate mass for the Karimojong community. On average 200-400 Karimojong attend mass every Sunday. They have erected a temporary structure made of eucalyptus and polythene sheets where we celebrate. From within this same shelter we have started literacy and feeding programmes to provide educational opportunities and food for the hungry children. So far two adults have been selected: one to prepare food and porridge for these children and another one to give literacy classes for the *Out of School Children*. When children are sick the leaders inform me and we provide medicine or the child is taken to a health facility.

Before considering a more sustainable, relevant and long-lasting tactic, I have decided to look first to the immediate needs of the children – a matter not simply of human rights but of *survival!*