

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

Councils in Province 41 Westminster

ORIGINALLY THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PROVINCE 30 SINCE APRIL 1994 ISSUE No. 007 (187)

MAR – APRIL 2025

North London - Edmonton - Hanwell - Palmers Green - St Albans - Willesden Green - Sudbury - Cockfosters - Hemel Hempstead - Enfield - Harrow & District – Uxbridge - Wembley - Stevenage - Hoxton Square - High .Wycombe - Yeading - Whitton - Wembley - Thames Valley

Dear Brothers, Rev. Fathers, Widows, Family, and Friends, as winter draws to a close and spring begins to adorn our gardens with bright daffodils and snowdrops, I reflect on all that has transpired since our last issue. In a world brimming with constant change and unforeseen events, the

Knights of St Columba in Province 41 have been diligently active. We have been writing to our MPs about critical issues such as the Winter Fuel Payment, the Assisted Suicide Bill, support for Ukraine, events in Gaza, and the preparedness of our Armed Forces amidst global tensions. These issues impact

not only our lives but also those of the less fortunate in our community.

Though Christmas seems a distant memory, it was only eight weeks ago that we urged everyone to remember the true reason for the Nativity season. Since then, Pope Francis has been hospitalized for over two weeks, and the Jubilee Year program has been unfolding in our parishes. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) continues to guide our work in the Knights of St Columba, reminding us of the values we uphold amid life's hectic pace and the rising cost of living.

As we consider renewing our membership, a brother recently asked, "The membership fee keeps going up, but what's in it for me?" It's not about what the Knights can do for its members, but rather what the members can do to champion the essence of belonging to the Knights. Supporting our clergy, living the principles that inspire us, and being active in our Council, Province, and the Order, are enough reasons whey we are Knights. We are here to uphold the common good, assist the poor, seek peace of mind, and care for our environment. The March principle of CST invites us to respect each person, regardless of their background, circumstances, or social status. The CST April principle emphasizes the dignity of work and the rights of workers, offering personal fulfilment and a sense of contributing to the common good.

In recent weeks, alongside managing the PGK email correspondence, organising provincial meetings and re-electing a new provincial team, while urging councils to complete their FA5s, I have undertaken the HO Audit of Membership in Province 41. It has been a challenging task, revealing a discrepancy of 92 brothers in our province. While some brothers pass away, it is crucial for all of us to focus on recruitment to ensure the Knights' future. We need a shake-up in our councils, and the call for ROTATION is growing. Apathy is an obstacle, often exacerbated by long-serving Grand Knights, and lack of replacement volunteers, but no job is too difficult with the support of our brotherhood.

I extend my gratitude to the nine councils volunteering to host the reliquary later this year and congratulate the brothers who have received their Silver Jubilee medals. As April arrives, several administrative forms of the Order will need to be completed, and I hope this is done in good time to avoid me chasing and shooting out more emails. This April I start my second year as PGK Province41, and I must end by thanking all the brothers who have helped me in so many ways by keeping the show going.



Artificial intelligence - what to believe in the media!

Scientists prove the existence of Adam and Eve. !!

Scientists have stated that there is growing evidence suggesting that humans are descendants of Biblical figures of Adam and Eve. While many dispute the existence of these two individuals, the three major religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam, agree that Adam and Eve were created by God and gave rise to the human race.

Experts now claim to have evidence supporting the existence of the Garden of Eden beyond the pages of the Bible. Archaeologists have found indications that the Garden of Eden was not just a mythical location but also the cradle of human civilisation. Meanwhile biologists assert that all humans share a common ancestor.

The Garden of Eden if believed to have been located in ancient Mesopotamia which today comprises much of Iraq, parts of Syria, Iran and Turkey ~ All trouble spots.... Look what humans do to God's creation!

Ouoted from - TagTik.com which has a 73.8% rating in media for accuracy and authenticity.



There are two regular Rosary prayer groups that give one the opportunity to follow Our Lady's request to say the rosary every day.

The Jubiliee Rosary is on every Thursday evening at 7.30pm on Zoom, with a permanent logon-id and Password set up for the whole year.... **So please make a note id : 895 3351 1576 password 856705**

For those who do not work, there's an opportunity to join the **Fatima Devotions daily weekday rosary Monday-Friday at 1:30pm** The Zoom details are sent out by HO every week, but if you miss them you can always find the weekly Zoom details either from Co984 website available on **www.council984.co.uk** or from the Provincial website **www.province41.co.uk** where each Weeks's zoom codes are published on the front page. - why don't you just try it out, there's no registration required, and you an join in when you have 30-minutes time available. •



Following the uproar when the Columba magazine hard copy was withdrawn, last year and the explanation that it was becoming too expensive to produce and even more expensive to post it out to each brother. The membership made several worthy reasons why it was important to keep the hard copy going, not least to make sure the parish priests got a copy and also its value as a recruitment tool by leaving a copy in the porch of our parishes, or by passing a copy to a prospective new brother, to show off all the good work the Knights were doing. Well the magazine is now back and a hard copy published twice a year. Councils, Provinces and brothers who want a hard copy can now subscribe annually - the subscription will be charged via your council annual invoice - so pleased copy your application to the Provincial Finance officer, so he can keep details of who the magazine charges can be collected from when the council settles the annual invoice. Form is available from the Provincial website www.province41.co.uk.

emel Hempstead Cos

Bro Tom Joyce Grand Knight Co528 wants all to know that the relatively small council of only six brothers can still have an impact in their community and show off the Knights at work.

For sixty-four years the Knights have been putting up the Nativity crib in the middle of the town centre to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. The Council covers two parishes, and Fr David Cherry Parish Priest for Hemel Hempstead West , and Fr Kim Addison Parish Priest Hemel Hempstead East both joined up to bless the crib watched by a crowd doing their Christmas shopping at the town centre.

6



*+Honouring our Brothers

On Sunday 9th February at Our Lady & St Joseph Hanwell Co163 were joined by a number of other brothers and Provincial officers to host a presentation of Silver Jubilee certificate and the Badge of honour to Bro Errol Rodrigues. The IPSK also presented a certificate and Medal to our IPRD Bro Rosario Fichardo. For the occasion, everybody was happy to welcome our Supreme Knight, his wife Anthonia and IPSK Bro Henry Welsh who presented the certificates on the day.

The COLUMBA CROSS citation "I Henry Welsh being the Supreme Knight on this day 19th October 2024 hereby bestow on Brother Rosario Fichardo of Province 41 Westminster the highest honour of the Knights of St Columba namely, the Columba Cross., awarded for services rendered to the Knights and the Catholic Church during his time as Regional Director and sterling work Serving God by Serving others and beholding the Order's values of CHARITY UNITY and FRATERNITY.



**MEMBERSHIP ~ Al Style

In an effort to overcome the difficulties of recruitment, lapsations and all problems arising out of our declining membership, I resorted to AI [Artificial intelligence] - the new IT bubble now bandied about by anyone including our politicians who try to convince us that AI is the answer to anything. I use MS CoPilot and thought Ill ask AI two questions— How to increase recruitment and how to keep the brothers we already have. - <u>Here are CoPilot's AI ideas to generate interest and encourage participation....</u>

- **1. Understanding their interests** <u>Personal touch</u>: Take time to understand the interests, preferences and needs of the elderly community. This can help tailor activities and initiatives that resonate with them.
- **2. Emphasize Community and Support** *Sense of belonging* Highlight the strong sense of community, camaraderie, and support that comes with being part of the Knights. *Mutual support* Emphasize the mutual support among members, especially during challenging times, which can be particularly appealing to the elderly.
- 3. **Organise Social Events** <u>Social gatherings</u> Plan social events such as coffee mornings, luncheons, and outings that provide opportunities for socializing and building connections. <u>Special Celebrations</u> Celebrate important milestones, birthdays, certificate presentations, competition awards, getting members and community together, fostering a sense of family within the community.
- 4. **Promote Spiritual Enrichment -** *Spiritual Activities* Organise activities that promote spiritual growth, such as prayer groups, bible studies and retreats. *Church Involvement*—encourage involvement in local church activities, which can enhance their spiritual well-being and connection to the community.
- 5. **Highlight Volunteer Opportunities** <u>Community service</u> Emphasize the opportunity to engage in meaningful volunteer work that benefits the local community and aliens with their values. <u>Community Service</u> Emphasize the opportunity to engage in meaningful volunteer work that benefits the local community and aligns with their values. <u>Legacy of Service</u> showcase the positive impact and legacy of service that the Knights of St Columba have within the community.
- 6. **Offer Educational Programs** <u>Workshops and talks</u> Organise educational workshops abnd talks on topics of interest to the elderly, such as health, technology and history. <u>Lifelong learning</u> Promoter the idea of lifelong learning and personal growth through participation in these programs.
- 7. **Use of effective Communication** <u>Tailored communication</u> Use communication methods that are accessible and preferred by the elderly, such as newsletters, phone calls, face-to-face interactions. <u>Engaging content</u> share engaging and inspiring content through church bulletins, local newspapers, and social media platforms to reach a wider audience.
- 8. **Collaborate with Local Organisations** <u>Partnerships</u> Collaborate with local senior centres, churches and community organisations to reach out to the elderly and promote the benefits of joining the Knights. <u>Joint Events</u> Host joint events and activities with these organisations to introduce potential membership to the Knights.
- 9. **Showcase Members Stories** *Personal Testimonials* Share stories and testimonials from current elderly members about their positive experiences and the sense of fulfilment they gain from being part of the Knights.
- 10. **Media Features** Feature these stories in newsletters, local media and the parish churches. •

Rétaining members we already have...

Carrying on with AI ... I then asked "How to generate interest for KSC members we already have. and here are the answers....."To generate interest among elderly members of the KSC, you could consider organising activities and events that cater to their interests and needs. Here are a few ideas:

- 1. **Social Gatherings** Host regular social events such as tea parties, luncheons, or dinners where members can connect, share stories and build camaraderie.
- 2. **Spiritual Activities** Organise prayer groups, Bible study sessions, or health workshops tailored to the needs of elderly members to promote physical well-being.
- 3. **Health and Wellness Programs** Offer exercise classes, yoga sessions or health workshops tailored to the needs of elderly members to promote physical well being.
- 4. **Volunteer Opportunities** encourage members to participate in community service projects, such as visiting nursing homes, assisting at local charities, or organising food drives.
- 5. **Educational Workshops** Arrange talks, lectures, or workshops on topics of interest such as history, culture, or current events, to keep members engaged and informed.
- 6. **Family Involvement** invite family members to join events and activities, fostering a sense of community and support for elderly members.
- 7. **Special Celebrations** Celebrate milestones and anniversaries with special events, such as birthday parties, anniversaries, or recognition ceremonies for long standing members.
- 8. **Mentoring and involvement** Both when a new members is recruited, but also for some current members who may lack the courage to come forward, ensure that new members are introduced and inducted, while other brother are kept involved in what is happening and requested for their views.

By offering a variety of activities and events, and ensure brothers are helped to become more involved in what you are already doing, by asking for their opinions and giving members a job and responsibility the group can foster a degree of achievement and I interest.

CoPilot & Tony Berkeley PGK P41

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.









MATIVITY WINNERS



1st 4-7yrs Chloe Rose Co970 Whitton



2nd 4-7yrs Gabriel Piwowarczyk Co422 High Wycombe



3rd 4-7 age Dovid Vicol Co295 Harrow



1st age 8-11 Dennis Khmarnyl Co 970 Whitton



2nd age 8-11yrs Olivia Rose Knapper Co984 Thames Valley



3rd age 8-11yrs Maja Passler Co422 High Wycombe



Jubilee year

Preparations began in Advent 2023, which marked the start of a year of prayer, when the Catholic Bishops' Conference produced resources that kicked off this special year.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? - An overview - "Pilgrims of Hope" is the theme for the 2025 Catholic Church Jubilee Year. A year of grace that takes place every 25 years. The theme is an invitation to share the Christian faith and hope with others, especially those who are suffering; people who go about in life with a strong sense of hope and faith. A time to renew faith through prayer, pilgrimage and action of charity, a time to ask for plenary indulgence, which is a special grace that strengthens the soul, a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, others and all of creation.

"There can be no doubt that the Christian faith belongs to the foundations of European culture... Modern Europe itself, which has given the democratic ideal and human rights to the world, draws its values from its Christian heritage." Pope John Paul II, Ecclesia in Europa, 2003

Some of the most precious principles of our faith and communities, which are constantly under attack — **Health** and Social Care, **Care** of our elderly, **Marriage** and family life, **Migrants** and refugees, **Human** trafficking, **Living** Wage, and **Mental** health, **The environment** ... all issues we hear about on our television day after day, a lot of talking and very few solutions.

It seems that politicians and ruling parties across the world know about the problems affecting their nations, but apart from lots of conferences, meetings and debates, very little progress seems to be made in resolving these problems in society.

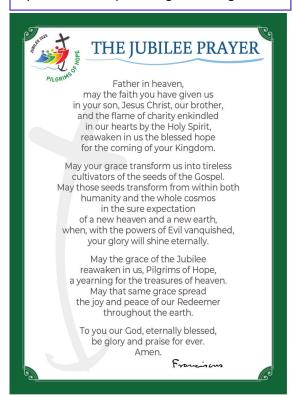
The Jubilee year - which comes around every twentyfive years, seems to have arrived just in the nick of time, where maybe Prayer and God's mercy can be the only real solution for humankind these days.

All members of the global church family, are called to participate in this Holy Year. - Province 41 through our provincial Chaplain is planning an Lenten retreat about the seven principles of Catholic social teaching, and I urge council brothers to make a special effort to attend - more details to follow, for this our first ever Province 41 retreat.

Output

Description:

The Jubilee prayer is the official prayer to express gratitude to God for the Jubilee experience and request the grace of forgiveness.



Pope Francis @pontifex reflections

Remember the Pope in your prayers. Pontifex I pose a question that each of us can ask ourselves: Do I deprive myself of something to give to the poor? When I give alms, do I touch the hand of the poor and look them in the eye? Brothers and sisters, let us not forget that the poor cannot wait! 17Nov24

Let us forcefully reaffirm today that the seeds of anti-Semitism must never again be allowed to take root in the human heart. Remembering the suffering and tears of the victims of the Holocaust, let us repeat: never again! - 80th Anniversary of the Holocaust

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.

Co.500 Cockfosters—Elena Bartram [RIP] widow of Past GK Brian, Sheila D'Sousa RIP widow of Bro D'Sousa. Bro Peter Mitchell eyesight and mobility problems; Prayers for Eugene Mgbemere, Robin Baines-Holmes and Martin Sherlock (son of our widow), All suffering neurological disorders; David Santamaria recovering heart surgery, Geoffrey Pearson, Joe O'Connor and Ron Woolner all housebound brothers. Our Finance officer's wife Linda Quilter and Hather Webb wife of our PDGK, Mark Webb (Multiple Sclerosis).

Co163 Hanwell Jason Fichardo (Bro Rosario's Son) who is not well and needs care. Bro Denis Barry recovering from fall, Bro Joe Lam awaiting operation, Bro Finbar and his wife Peggy under treatment, Bro PJ Gillian whose wife passed away.

Co261 Palmers Green Pray for Bro Desmond O'Reilly our Provincial Finance officer who is receiving chemo treatment.

Co572 Enfield - Bro John Egan who is very ill.

Co320 St Albans. Lorraine Ahern GK wife still recovering from fall.

Bernadette Smyth recovering from fall.

Co.399 Uxbridge Bro Cleverly [RIP] Who passed away recently.

Co.422 High Wycombe Fr Casper Fecher, Bro Oliver Byrne, Bro Paul Pennington, Bro Johnnie Johnson, Bro Ian Robertson, Bro Joe Sequeira, Bro Bill Churn on their Anniv. Mrs Francilla Edwards recovering from stroke, and three housebound brothers, John Hall, Dennis Burrows, Geoff Pilkington.

Co.267 Sudbury Bro Julian Melville and his wife who are unwell.

Co.295 Harrow Bro John Keane who is in hospital following an accident.

Co970 Whitton Bro Ted Walsh [RIP] who passed away this February. Please pray for his soul and remember Phyllis his widow and Ann and Collette his daughters and the rest of his family.

Co.984 Thames Valley Bro Jon Duus Jensen [RIP]. Ex Bro Lindsay Meerabux Prov Membership Officer, recovering from cardiac bypass. PGK's family members Myriam Psaila and Marcell Borg both receiving treatment, Una O'Doherty R.I.P widow of brother Jim, who passed away end of January.

Roundabout Distribution

A reminder to Grand Knights. This issue has been forwarded direct to all the officers in the Provincial Good Standing order listing and others on external distribution list. Please forward Roundabout to all other Brothers of your Council who are not 'online' and any other persons who may be interested. Due to administration costs and cost of postage, 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 20th April 2025

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

Editor: - Tony Berkeley, 81 Ranelagh Crescent, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8LQ Tel 07377 168 356 Mob: 07377 168 356

e-mail : furtunato101@gmail.com

www.province41.co.uk

BRO JOHN EGAN

An email from our Worthy Supreme Knight Bro Michael Akinrele a few weeks ago, thanking Enfield Co572 for for supporting his family and helping them to cope, and example how much some of our brothers do actually look after our sick and elderly without much fanfare.

The email and the correspondence that followed, highlighted how brothers do in fact deliver the care and attention to our elderly and jubilarians who had given continuous service to the Order. Since he joined the Order in the '1950s, Bro John Egan, now 92, has served in most of his councils and province offices, in Action, Youth, Welfare and Membership and also as a Grand Knight, and right up to a director of our Order. He managed all this on top of his other work in the community as town Councillor and Mayor of Enfield... an example for some who require an mentor, role model, an inspirational or guide as to what a dedicated Knight of St Columba can do.

He and some other brothers branched out from Council 248 Edmonton to set up the Enfield council in 1962. Enfield has grown somewhat since then and now counts 39 brothers of which five are including himself are Golden Jubilarians.

The exchange of emails has highlighted the fact that time does not stop for anyone, and at the great age of 92, brother John is now in a care home, and being regularly visited by Enfield's Grand Knight Bro Marco D'Amato and his brothers. My thanks to Bro Ben Agwunobi my deputy in Province for some of the historical details above.

I encourage all brothers in province to remember Bro John in your prayers, as he struggles with the pains and difficulties that becomes us all in our old age.

•



COLEZ MEN WOME

An example of what some of our councils can achieve - in spite of only 3-4 active brothers who continue to keep their council alive, have time to take part in most of what is



given them to do, interface with their clergy, answer all emails promptly, send in monthly council minutes, care for their housebound and all other basic requirements of an active council of the Knights of St Columba.

Bro Paul Hogwood as the stand-in Grand Knight and his follow brothers run Nativity competitions at two schools in the area, and manage to collect the entries before school breaks up for Christmas - shortlist the best entries, create winners certificate and by mid-January already arrange winners presentation as soon as the children are back in school. What an achievement!

As a regular contributor to the Roundabout they have sent me a photo of the prizewinners for the Nativity Scene competition at St. Peter's Catholic School in Marlow who took part in the recent Nativity Scene competition. There was an enthusiastic response, with it being made part of their normal lessons. After much deliberation, the school forwarded the best 6 of each category,, the Council 422 judged who was winner and runner up in each case. The photo shows the certificates presented to the children along with Mr. Nicol, Headmaster, and Brother Paul Hogwood for the Knights - well done Bro Paul.

Tony Berkeley PGK P41

Monthly Council meetings for Province 41 councils will be

COUNCIL 106 NORTH LONDON at : St Francis De Salle 729 High Road London N17 8AG On the 3rdThursday of the month.

COUNCIL 163 HANWELL at: Parish centre 52 Uxbridge Road Hanwell W7 3SU On 2nd Tuesday of the Month 8:00pm

COUNCIL 248 EDMONTON at: St Edmunds Croyland road N9 7EB On 2nd Tuesday of the month 8.00pm

COUNCIL 261 PALMERS GREEN at: St Monica Parish Stonard Road London N13 4DJ On 3rd Monday of the month.

COUNCIL 267 SUDBURY at: St George's Hall 970 Harrow Road Sunbury HA2 2QE On 2nd Wednesday of the month.

COUNCIL 295 HARROW DISTRICT at: All Saints Kenton Road Harrow HA3 0UG On 2nd Tuesday of the month.

COUNCIL 320 ST ALBAN Ss.Alban & Stephen Parish, 14 Beaconsfield Road, St. Albans, AL1 3RB. On 2nd Monday of the month.

COUNCIL 399 UXBRIDGE at: Parish Hall 160 Long Land Uxbridge UB10 0EH On 1st Monday of the month.

COUNCIL 404 WILLESDEN GREEN St Mary Magdalen, St Peter Avenue Willesden Green NW10 2DD last Monday of the month.

COUNCIL 422 HIGH WYCOMBE: OnLine & St Augustin 24 Amersham Hill High Wycombe HP13 6NZ 2nd Monday of the month.

COUNCIL 500 COCKFOSTERS & S Herts at: Christ the King 29 Bramley Road London N14 4HE On 1st Thursday of the month.

COUNCIL 528 HEMEL HEMPSTEAD at: St Joseph, St Johns Road Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NR On 2nd Thursday

COUNCIL 572 ENFIELD at: Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St George 42 London Road Enfield on the 2nd Monday of month.

COUNCIL 616 STEVENAGE at: St Joseph's Hall Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NJ On first Tuesday of the month.

COUNCIL 637 HOXTON SQUARE at: 19 Hoxton Road N1 5NT Hackney London On 1st Thursday of the month.

COUNCIL 963 YEADING at: St Raphael Hall Morrison Road Yeading UB4 9JP On 2nd Monday of the month.

COUNCIL 984 THAMES VALLEY meets Zoom On-Line On the first Monday of the month at 12:00 Noon

COUNCIL 970 WHITTON at: Presbytery 123 Nelson Road Whitton TW2 7RB On 2nd Monday of the month.

COUNCIL 982 WEMBLEY at: English Martyrs Chalk Hill Road Wembley HA9 9EU On 2nd Monday of the month.

Next cycle of Provincial meetings.

Logon Online Zoom meetings details nearer the dates.

Provincial Officers' Meeting

23rd April 2025 8.00pm ONLINE ZOOM SESSION

Combined Provincial Committee Meetings - Online

FINANCE & ADMIN - MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT: MONDAY 12th May 2025 ZOOM ONLINE 8:00 PM SPIRITUALITY & WELFARE - ACTION & YOUTH: TUESDAY 13th May 2025 ZOOM ONLINE 8:00PM

Provincial Council Meeting on 14th JUNE 2025 - SUMMER F2F MEETING AT COCKFOSTER.

Representation is required by every council for Provincial Meetings.

The Grand Knight and/or his council officer or a delegate is duty bound to attend.

FORMS are now available through Province41 website. www.province41.co.uk



FORMS — Now available through Province41 Website: www.province41.co.uk you can access new forms for obtaining

THE SILVER JUBILEE AWARD - for brothers who have served 25 years or more - check your brothers out and make arrangements.