

'KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA
THAMES VALLEY - PROVINCE 23
www.PROVINCE23.CO.UK province23@hotmail.com



ISSUE 53 Nov/Dec 2015

THE VALLEY

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE COUNCILS ~
 DIDCOT, WINDSOR . HIGH WYCOMBE . ASCOT .



Dear Reverend Fathers, Brothers, Ladies and friends of Province 23,

In three weeks time we will be into Advent, a time of preparing ourselves and our churches for celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. This time is when many of us will be organising or helping to organise our Parish Christmas Bazaars etc. and can sometimes be stressful, busy and tiring. But what a joy when it all comes together with success to be savoured.

So this is by way of encouragement to all of you who will be involved, that your efforts will help our Church to survive and flourish. We are under such pressure from many areas and our Faith is always being put in a position of having to defend its stance on Catholic teaching as lots of vested interest groups find that the Catholic Church is almost alone in standing up for what is right. This is where we Knights must stand up and be counted when called upon to defend our Faith. I think in the future we will be greatly encouraged by the Supreme Knight and Board of Directors to focus more on our Catholicity as an Order. This will involve all of us striving to understand, and be educated in, Catholic Teaching to be better informed when required to defend our Faith.



David Sole
 Grand Knight Prov23

Please ensure you have ordered sufficient Christmas posters and 'Keep Christ in Christmas' stickers to use in your parishes and councils which will make a difference. A simple and inexpensive way of raising awareness of our Order and the true message of Christmas. **Mary's meals.** As a National Action Project this comes to an end at Supreme Conference. However, please remember that from now until 28th December 2015 the UK Government **will match any personal donations.** The deadline for receipt of donations by Mary's Meals is 28th Feb. 2016. This means the charity will receive **double the amount** donated, so please make use of this valuable offer by the government. Your donations are now helping to feed over 1,000,000 children! Keeping the best until last.....I am delighted to inform you that as an Order we have raised in **excess** of £175,000!! It is a tremendous result and I thank each and every one of you who did anything at all to help achieve that figure. From the children, a million 'thankyou's'.

And now, looking forward we begin another National Action Project which will also last for three years.

The Project is Missio and we will be raising funds initially for this Papal Charity in Cambodia. In particular, the Lindalva Centre, run by Nuns, for those children who cannot go to school and have no one to look after them whilst their parents are at work. Publicity packs may be ordered by councils from Missio England and Wales, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU. Tel. 020 7821 9755 at no cost. (They may suggest a small donation for the Rosaries) It is really well produced material and I urge all councils to send for some packs.

Many of you will remember Brother Tom O'Connell who sadly died on 17th. October. Tom was Grand Knight of Cl. 226 Slough and a stalwart of our Province over many years. Tom died aged 96 in a Care Home in Market Harborough. May he rest in peace.

Although a bit early, I wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

David Sole



Five things to know about Christmas

Christmas or Xmas? Christmas is also sometimes known as Xmas. But adopting the XMAS takes the 'Christ' (Jesus) out of Christmas. The words Christmas comes from the words CHRIST-MASS, the Church service that celebrated the birth of Jesus, so it can only be less than Christian to use XMAS to mean the birth of Christ.



When Christmas is Celebrated Many people think Christmas is on December the 25th and that's all there is to Christmas. However, for many people around the world, different Christian traditions, Christmas lasts for a lot longer than that - and it's even celebrated at different times!

Some churches (mainly Orthodox churches) use different calendars for their religious celebrations. Orthodox Churches in Russia, Serbia, Jerusalem, Ukraine, Ethiopia and other countries use the old 'Julian' calendar and celebrate Christmas on January 7th. Some Greek Orthodox celebrate the feast on January 7th and the Armenians, the Apostolic church celebrate Christmas and the Epiphany on January 6th.

Advent - The Time Before Christmas - Many Christians use the time of Advent to prepare themselves for the joy of Christmas, the birth of Jesus. Advent is normally a period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Orthodox and Eastern Catholics Advent lasts for 40 days, starting on November 15th. During Advent many people fast by giving up types of food, depending on their church tradition.

After Christmas - The 12 Days of Christmas and Epiphany



After Advent, traditionally, starts on Christmas Day and lasts for 12 Days - better known as The 12 Days of Christmas! And finishes on 5th January referred to as Twelfth Night.

Following Twelfth Night, on 6th January, is Epiphany, when people remember the Wise Men (called the Three Kings). who visited Jesus and/or the Baptism of Jesus.

Candlemas - The End of Christmas You might think that Christmas ends when you take the Christmas Decorations down - but it doesn't! After both Christmas and the season of Epiphany, the end of the Christmas celebrations come on February 2nd, 40 days after Christmas, with Candlemas. also known as the 'Presentation of Jesus at the Temple' or the 'Feast of the Purification of the Virgin (or Mary)'

The name Candlemas comes from 'Candle Mass' because in many Candlemas services, the candles are blessed to be used in churches during the coming year or are given out to people for them to use in their homes and private prayers.



CONTACTS AT PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL TEAM 2015 - 2016

Grand Knight :	Bro. David Sole	Email: davidsole14@gmail.com	Tel : 01494 527 820
Treasurer	Bro. John Lynn	Email : johnlynn1@live.co.uk	Tel 01628 636 668
Membership/Welfare	Bro. Tony Berkeley	Email : province23@hotmail.com	Tel : 01344 883 363

Happy Birthday

Council 301 Windsor

November - Leonard Burton
 December - Julian Powell
 December - Jon Duus-Jensen
 December - Peter Simmons



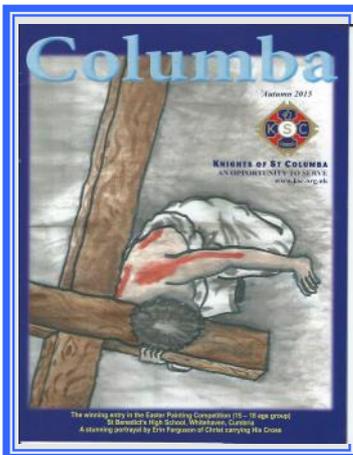
Council 422 High Wycombe

November - Paul Pennington

November
&
December

Council 590 Ascot

November - Tony O'Neill



The Spring 2015 copy of the Columba Magazine is now available and can be obtained online by clicking on the link provided in the poster.

Hard copies are always available from the local Grand Knight or from Head Office.

Councils are always encouraged to place copies of the Columba Magazine in the parishes, as free copies to be taken away by anyone who is interested in what the Knights do.

If Councils do not have enough spare copies to place in their parishes please contact province23@hotmail.com to arrange for an increase in the copies mailed to you or to place an additional order with Head Office. •

NEW - A Columba magazine archive is now available on the website www.ksc.org.uk.



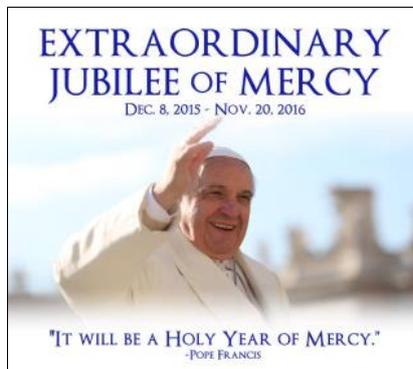
TheyWorkForYou.com
 Keeping tabs on the UK's parliaments & assemblies



TheyWorkForYou lets you find out what your MP, MSP or MLA is doing in your name. Read the debates and written answers. See what's coming up in Parliament, and sign up for email alerts when your local candidate stands up to speak. Look at their past voting history on specific subjects you may be interested in. <https://www.writetothem.com/>

The Editor welcomes contributions for the next issue, which should reach him by 10th February 2016. [Email : Province23@hotmail.com]

Opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors only. All comments and feedback is very much appreciated.



A jubilee year is a special year called by the church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. The Catholic church has called jubilee years every 25 or 50 years since the year 1300 and has also called special jubilee years from time to time, known as extraordinary jubilee years.

The last jubilee year was held in 2000 during the papacy of Pope John Paul II and was known as "the Great Jubilee." The last extraordinary jubilee year was held in 1983 to celebrate 1,950 years since the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Pope Francis said the new jubilee would begin on this year's Catholic feast of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated Dec. 8. It will close on Nov. 20, 2016, the day celebrated that year as the feast of Christ the King.

The Pope has made mercy a central theme of his papacy, speaking of it often in homilies and in his texts. His apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), uses the word 32 times. He also called two global meetings of Catholic bishops at the Vatican -- known as synods, with one being held last year and the next which is in session as we go to print, which focused on issues of family life. The meetings are known to have discussed how the church might use its teachings on mercy to address sometimes difficult contemporary family situations, such as divorce and remarriage and same-sex unions.

"The call of Jesus pushes each of us to never stop at the surface of things, especially when we are dealing with a person," the pope said later. "We are called to look beyond, to focus on the heart to see of how much generosity everyone is capable.



"No one can be excluded from the mercy of God," Francis continued, repeating: "No one can be excluded from the mercy of God!" The Pope said "The church is the house that welcomes all and refuses no one, its doors remain wide open, so that those touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness."

"Better must be the love of the church expressed toward those who convert," he said.

The pontifical council, with Francis' backing, has called on all parishes around the world to remain open for confessions for 24 hours Friday through Saturday as possible. ♦

Extracts from : Joshua J. McElwee is NCR Vatican correspondent.

A half-time report of the progress of the Vatican Synod by Cardinal Vincent Nicols is available on-line <https://soundcloud.com/diocese-westminster/cardinal-vincents-half-time-synod-report>

SMILE AREA.....

A big, burly man visited with a priest well known for his charitable impulses, answered the Friar door.

“Father,” said the man in a broken voice, “I wish to draw your attention to the terrible plight of a poor family in this parish. The father is dead, the mother is too ill to work, and the nine children are starving. On top of this they are about to be kicked out and turned into the cold, empty streets unless someone pays their rent, which amounts to £400.”

“How terrible!” exclaimed the priest. “May I ask who you are?”
The Sympathetic visitor applied his handkerchief to his eyes. “I’m the landlord” he sobbed

~~~~~

**A man** asked God : What is a million years like to you ?

**God:** Like one second.

**The man** asked : What is a million pounds like to you?

**God:** Like one penny.

**The man**, pushing his luck asked : Can I have a penny?

**God:** Just a second.

~~~~~

Sometimes wives are overly suspicious of their husbands.

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. “You’re running around with other women,” she charged.

“You’re being unreasonable, Eve” Adam responded. “You’re the only woman on earth.”

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by Eve poking him in the chest.

“What are you doing?” Adam demanded.

“Counting your ribs,” said Eve.

Your prayers requested for.....

Bro. Johnnie Johnson (Co422 H Wycombe and PPGK) permanently in Care but doing OK.

Bro. Paul & Pam Pennington (GK Co593 Didcot) Both are in needs our prayers.

Bro. Cyril Verling (Co593 Didcot) who is permanently in care at Christian care home Oxfordshire.

Fr. Tom Taaffe (Chaplain Co590) who is returned to Ireland due to ill health

Bro. Tom McGough (Co.301 Windsor) Who is not well.

Bro. Jack Austin (Co514 Cranford & Feltham) who has passed away recently.

Bro Tom O’Connell (Past GK Co226 Slough—Moved to Market Harborough) who died 17th October

Fr. Danny McAvoy (Parish Priest Ascot & Bracknell—Co 590) who is unwell.



MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF ST.COLUMBA

Is open to men 16 years of age or older who are Practicing Catholics. This means that an applicant or member accepts the Teaching Authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church. [Anyone interested can - Email province23@hotmail.com](mailto:province23@hotmail.com) or call 01344 883363



NOVEMBER DECEASED BROTHERS



- Co.194** Fr B Calderbank OSFC Fr PD McGonville SDB
 Bro AG Armstrong Bro T Costello Bro H Thorp
 Bro MH Leehey Bro E Barnes Bro C Goode
 Fr C Costigan
- Co.226** Bro EF Byron Bro J Melia Bro RF Wilson
Co.416 Bro J Anderson Bro J Stennet Bro P Mulveney
Co.422 Bro T Sweeney Bro H Morgan Bro P Weston
Co.568 Bro W Headland
Co.590 Bro B Watts Bro T Campling Bro C Oakland
 Bro L James
Co.593 Rev J Parry

DECEMBER DECEASED BROTHERS

- Co.194** Bro HD Thorp Bro J McMahon Bro L Downey
Co.226 Bro WJ Cook Bro H Simson Bro RG Campbell
 Bro F Crane Bro WE Deegan
Co.301 Bro JA Pett Bro G Marriott
 Bro JH Walton
Co.416 Bro BF Reilly
Co.590 Bro W Harvey Bro H Loosemore
Co.593 Bro T Ransley



DATES UNKNOWN

- Co.194** Bro W Kirkland Bro C Tewksbury Rev A Gordon SJ •
Co.226 Bro J Ahern Bro GJ Carter Bro W Goulding Bro RO Lanigon •
Co.301 Bro WA Goulding Bro JJ Mills Bro WJ Hearne •
Co.554 Bro H Holt •
Co.593 Bro T Lightfoot Bro A Healey •
 Bro P Murray Bro R Brewer Fr Harry Henry •

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And may perpetual light shine upon them
 And may they rest in Peace - Amen**

Every effort is made to cross check the list of deceased brothers in every Council. Should you be aware of any Brother who is missing in the above months, or any other month of the year, please contact Tony Berkeley Prov Membership or Bro David Sole Provincial Gran Knight Prov23 Thank you.

