

## **KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**

Councils in Province 41 Westminster

ORIGINALLY THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PROVINCE 30 SINCE APRIL 1994
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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 the summer unfolds, the daffodils that once brightened our days have now faded—a reminder of how swiftly time passes. Province41 has been bustling with activity, and I am delighted to share some highlights with you.

Membership Audit Success. Our recent membership audit with Maira proved invaluable, revealing brothers who had inadvertently been removed from the lists and adding new members. This meticulous effort ensured timely and accurate annual levy

invoices, with minimal issues. Early submission of SW4a Special Needs forms further facilitated prompt refunds. Additionally, we extended support from our Provincial Benevolent Fund to around twenty brothers in need.

Training and Development Initiatives. In line with WSK directives, we've embarked on a comprehensive training program for Grand Knights and the four key officers of every council. Working closely with our six District Deputies, we are fostering progressive outcomes from their visits to all 19 councils. To improve efficiency, we've also begun implementing a standardized layout for council minutes—a step to address inefficiencies that arose during the Covid-19 period.

Encouraging Leadership through Rotation. To comply with the Constitution of the Order and uphold the principles of leadership rotation, councils have been asked to prepare for transitions. Brothers who have served their three years as Grand Knights or key officers who have served their five years in office, are encouraged to mentor and train successors for January elections. While change can sometimes be challenging, this initiative breathes new life into our leadership, empowering brothers to step forward with confidence and dedication. Remember—none of these roles require prior qualifications, only a willingness to learn and serve.

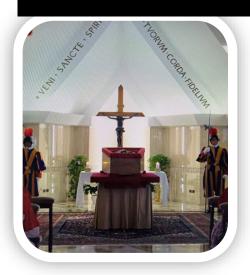
Heartfelt Achievements in Charity. We proudly raised over £9,000 for the North London Hospice through our united fundraising efforts, with Palmers Green Council's Hospice project leading the charge. Presenting the cheque alongside Provincial Action convenor, Bro. John Lynn was a humbling moment that highlighted the generosity and commitment of Province41.

Looking ahead, our initial plan to hire a Jambulance for the 2025/6 Provincial project has been adjusted suspended as being too ambitious. Instead, councils will nominate and support community fundraising projects within their respective parishes. Our newly appointed Action & Youth Officer, Bro. Jan Wozinski, will guide councils in setting these projects in motion.

In Memoriam. With deep sorrow, we mourn the passing of Pope Francis last week. I have sent condolences to Cardinal Vincent Nichols and four bishops of Westminster Province. We join in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide the conclave in selecting a shepherd who will lead our Church through these challenging times. 

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## FAREWELL TO A GREAT POPE



### **Message from our Supreme Knight**

Pope Francis Rest in Peace. Monday 21st April 2025.

On behalf of the Knights of St Columba and our families and MOH.

Today will live on in our memories for the rest of our time on earth. You have been a God Send. Your selection in March 2013 heralded a new and important phase in our Catholic life. You have impacted young and old and even non Catholics.

Our Condolences to your family in Argentina and indeed our Condolences to the Catholic family around the World.

So, so sad to learn of your passing. We wish you safe journey. You have left us so much. You have taught us so much in your time as Our beloved Pope.

May Your Soul Rest in Peace. May our Good Lord Grant you Eternal Rest in Heaven.

Michael Akinrele Supreme Knight Knights of St Columba



#### **Message from Cardinal Nichols**

Dear Tony Berkeley

I write to express my heartfelt gratitude for your message of condolence following the death of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis.

At this time of mourning, your words have been a source of comfort and strength. Pope Francis served the Church with humility, courage, and a deep love for the poor and the marginalised. His witness to the Gospel touched hearts across the world, and his legacy will continue to inspire us for generations to come.

As we commend his soul to the mercy of God, we also give thanks for his life, his ministry, and his unwavering commitment to the unity of the Church and the service of humanity.

With renewed gratitude and with an assurance of my prayers for you and the Knights of St Columba.

Yours sincerely

HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols Archbishop of Westminster



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.

## SOLUMBA MAGAZINE

Great news - it now emerges that the Columba Magazine - which is now published twice a year, will be sent to all brothers. There is also an opportunity for all councils to subscribe for extra copies to be sent to the Parish Priest and widows at a cost of £6.00 pa. Councils wanting to take advantage of this extra subscription can complete a form found on the Provincial website www.province41.co.uk which can be sent to HO directly.

Brothers are always encouraged to use their copy (once read) for their recruitment, placing it in their parish porch, or some friends who may be interested in joining us. Each council should check that copies are being received by brothers who are housebound, or those brothers who do not attend meetings regularly.

## Dur Provincial Chaplain .....writes.

I'm sure many of us were looking forward to something of an uneventful Easter Monday. Our counters were dutifully counting the collection shortly before 9am when I went into the Church. As I was preparing the Missal and Lectionary for Mass one of them came to tell me that they had just read on their phone that the Holy Father had died.

I went straight back into the Presbytery and switched on the television. It was going to be one of those "television on" days. As the news came through, I was reflecting on how lovely it was that he had appeared on the Balcony to give the Easter Urbi et Orbi Blessing, After the Blessing, Pope Francis got into the Pope mobile and was driven around St Peter's Square. I couldn't help but think the athlete did his lap of honour before retiring. Since the resignation of his predecessor, Pope Benedict, we often speculated as to whether Pope Francis would retire. For me however, deep down, I knew he was one of those priests/religious who were going to die with their boots on.

He certainly did that. He leaves us a tremendous legacy. We must be wise custodians of that legacy and in turn bequeath it's good to the next generation. Many lines of scripture pass through our minds on these occasions. I thought of the words of St Paul "I have run the race to the finish" [2 Tim 4:7] and the words of Jesus "Well done good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your Master" [ Mt 25:23.]

We now mourn the death of Pope Francis, and the Church has set aside 9 days for us to do this. At the end of these 9 days, we turn our focus to the College of Cardinals as they gather to elect a new successor to St Peter. Notice St Peter - not necessarily Pope Francis. In these days we pray for Pope Francis but also for the College of Cardinals. Our own Bishop is a member of this College and an elector - should we not make it our duty to pray particularly for Cardinal Vincent Nichols in his role as a Cardinal Elector.

## Province 41 Training program

#### **Promoting Training Across All Fronts**

Training has been a major focus since the Supreme Council meeting in Liverpool last October. The topic was extensively covered in the April Bulletin, with contributions from the Supreme Knight and other Board members.

Province 41 began April 2025 with an induction course for seven newly elected Council Grand Knights. This initiative ensures members not only hear about training opportunities but actively subscribe to attend them. Initially, two sessions were planned to provide flexibility. A third session was later added to accommodate those unable to attend the first two dates, emphasizing that training is not merely a good idea but an essential part of council responsibilities.



**Rotation and Leadership Development** Province 41 has introduced the concept of rotation, encouraging Grand Knights who have served beyond their three-year term to step down by December. Training courses for prospective leaders aim to end the era of prolonged tenures and establish a culture of mentorship. Grand Knights are encouraged to prepare deputies or other members for leadership roles, ensuring smooth transitions.

**Specialized Training Programs** In April, a training program was held for Finance and Administration officers across the 19 councils. Recognizing the specific skills required for this role, training was offered not just to first-time officeholders but to all members in these positions.

Rotation is also addressed in the Rules and Constitution of the Order, with a recommended period of five years for other council officers. Early training programs aim to simplify the process of taking on new roles. Zoom sessions, comprehensive handbooks, and support from fellow members ensure a manageable learning curve for all council positions. Volunteers are encouraged to step forward ahead of February.

**Expanding Online Training** Online training has proven invaluable, offering access to members across all councils. Upcoming sessions will focus on specific areas, including Spirituality & Welfare, Action & Youth, and Membership & Administration. A program will also be arranged for the six District Deputies.

**Adapting to Modern Challenges** COVID-19 introduced a degree of "laissez-faire" to council operations, with some traditional practices falling by the wayside. While technology—like circulating minutes electronically and hosting online meetings—has been embraced, some customs, such as maintaining attendance and visitation books, have faded. This highlights the importance of ongoing training and development to adapt to evolving needs.

For long-serving members, training may seem redundant, akin to "teaching one's grandmother to suck eggs." However, training is not about challenging experience; it is about continuous improvement. Regular training offers opportunities for both participants and trainers to refine practices and explore better ways of working, ensuring councils are equipped to thrive.

In summary The provincial training program is carefully designed to meet the needs of specific council offices, with considerable preparation involved to ensure its effectiveness. Alternative dates are offered to provide flexibility for all brothers holding these positions. It is important to note that participation in the program is not optional. Grand Knights are entrusted with the responsibility to ensure that their officers subscribe to one of the scheduled sessions. This commitment is essential to support the success of the councils and the wider Order.

**Going forward...** all brothers holding council office should expect to be asked to subscribe to the most convenient of the sessions offered for the office they hold.

## Co982 WEMBLEY



Bishop John Sherrington Auxiliary Bishop in the Diocese of Westminster, in north London deanery, celebrated mass at English Martyrs Wembley on 9th March 2025, as part of his during his visit of the deanery. After mass, the Bishop met with parishioners and groups in the church hall. This was a good occasion for Bro Sam Uwechue the Grand Knight at Wembley and Bro Godwin Okafor, to meet the Bishop and introduce his council brothers after Mass. refreshments. 

Output

Diocese of Westminster, in north London

deanery, celebrated mass at English Martyrs

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# The Council's work is done between meetings

Managing nineteen councils across the Province is undoubtedly a significant task, especially given the diverse nature of these councils. Some are robust, with dozens of dedicated brothers, while others operate with just enough members to sustain their activities. Additionally, certain councils lean heavily towards older, retired brothers, often in their 80s and beyond, while others are primarily composed of working brothers. These differences naturally influence attendance at meetings, although meetings might not always be the primary focus.

The real heart of a council's work happens in the intervals between meetings. While meetings and committees remain vital, they serve best as moments for reflection, planning and evaluation—an opportunity to assess how effectively we're serving our parish and community. As we embark on a new term, perhaps we can explore ways to make meetings more impactful, focusing on strategies that enable the council to grow and achieve even greater results.

Time constraints are often a challenge, but dedication can be the key to striking a balance between what is achievable and what is aspirational. Fortunately, modern tools offer us enhanced communication options, like WhatsApp for more immediate exchanges, alongside email for those who prefer it. To ensure email remains efficient, it's important to check inboxes frequently and respond promptly—even a simple acknowledgment can buy time and keep matters moving forward. 

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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.









The phrase "Pilgrims of Hope" resonates deeply with the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year 2025, a sacred time marked by renewal, reflection, and grace. Celebrated every 25 years, the Jubilee Year calls upon Catholics worldwide to embark on a spiritual journey filled with transformation and hope. This journey focuses on strengthening our relationships - with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

The Jubilee Year is a global invitation to deepen our faith and prayer lives, while re-establishing harmony in our interactions with others. It challenges us to live out the mission proclaimed by Jesus in Luke 4:16-21,

emphasizing kindness, justice, and compassion.

At its core, the Jubilee is a call to reflect on how we treat each other and how we fulfil our Christian purpose in the world. Looking back to early Christianity, we see echoes of these themes in Antioch, located in modern-day Turkey—a significant centre of the Roman Empire and one of the earliest hubs of Christianity. It was here that followers of Christ were first called Christians. The city's pluralistic society, composed of Jews and Gentiles, often experienced tensions regarding faith practices. Jewish Christians adhered to traditional rituals such as circumcision, Sabbath observance, and dietary laws, while Gentile Christians favoured a different approach to devotion. These disputes mirror the complexities of faith communities throughout history and remind us how challenges can unite or divide us.

History, as it often does, has a way of repeating itself. The media is abuzz with speculation about the Conclave of cardinals in Rome, highlighting perceived divisions within the Church. Some cardinals are seen as proponents of continuing Pope Francis's vision, while others are said to favour a return to more traditional approaches. Yet, this ongoing discourse reflects the dynamic nature of faith and the Church's ability to adapt while remaining steadfast in its mission. When the doors of the Sistine Chapel are sealed, we trust that the Holy Spirit will be at work. We pray that whoever is chosen as the next Pope will be blessed with an abundance of wisdom, guided by the Holy Spirit to lead our Church along a path of holiness and grace.  $\odot$ 

# Easter and the Egg....



The tradition of dyeing and decorating Easter eggs is ancient, and its origin is obscure, but it has been practiced in both the Eastern Orthodox and the Western churches since the Middle Ages.

Historically the church prohibited the eating of eggs during Holy Week, but chickens continued to lay eggs during that week, and the notion of specially identifying those as Holy Week eggs brought about their decoration.

The egg itself became a symbol of the Resurrection. Just as Jesus rose from the tomb, the egg symbolized new life emerging from the eggshell. In the Orthodox tradition, eggs are painted red to symbolize the blood that Jesus shed on the cross. The egg-colouring tradition has continued even in modern secular nations.

In the United States, for example, the White House Easter Egg Roll has been held, with some interruptions, on the Monday following Easter since 1878.

In Russian culture, Easter eggs, especially the iconic Fabergé eggs, hold significant meaning, symbolizing rebirth and resurrection. The tradition of giving and receiving painted eggs is deeply ingrained in Russian Orthodox Christian celebrations, with eggs traditionally dyed red to represent the blood of Christ. •





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 Heather 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.

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

Council 984 Thames Valley run a Fatima Devotion prayer group that prays the Rosary every week day at 1.30pm. A flyer for each week showing the ZOOM ID & PASSWORD. Is available at **www.council984.co.uk** select the week's flyer and the access code - come and see, or Email council984@hotmail.com to be added to the weekly zoom detail flyer.

### 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

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

Co.422 High Wycombe brothers whose anniversary occurs May/June Bro Bernard Aggett (1971) - Bro Adib Romaya (2018) - Bro John Ivers (1977) - Fr Stephen McGuinness (2018) May their souls and all the souls of faithfully departed Rest in Peace.

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

Co.295 Harrow Bro John O'Brien who is attending hospital.

Co.984 Thames Valley PGK's family members Myriam Psaila and Marcell Borg both receiving treatment, Head Office: Bro frank Redmond [RIP] Past SK who passed away recently funeral 1st May.

Co970 Whitton Bro Teddy Walsh [RIP] who passed away recently.

Co572 Enfield - Bro John Egan who passed away recently.



The Editor welcomes contributions for the next issue of Roundabout which should reach him by
Thursday 20th June2025

Opinions expressed in articles and

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# 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 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.

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

## Next cycle of Provincial meetings. Logon Online Zoom meetings details nearer the dates.

### **Provincial Officers' Meeting**

30th July 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



LIVES WORTH LIVING
A CAMPAIGN OF SPUC PRO-LIFE . SPUC.ORG. UK/LIVESWORTHLIVING

Just before Parliament rose for Easter, Kim Leadbeater MP announced that the Report Stage of the Terminally III Adults (End of Life) Bill will now take place on 16 May.—Still time to write to your MP