



Greetings, Readers of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation update.

I sent this invitation to Diane, for possible distribution after receiving it from Dorothy Elaine, thinking some might want to join with the St. Columba Parish in their prayer and/or fasting. We CSJs were at two schools in Oakland in an earlier era, so some might be interested.

It seems that this kind of collaborative action was what was called for in the 2013 Chapter: Partnering with New Eyes. And now participation could be a small bold response to “interlocking systems of oppression.” (CSJ Chapter 2019)

The invitation is directly below. In case you are interested in knowing something about the parish, below the invitation is a link from the St. Columba Parish website for newcomers. *The St. Columba Black Lives Matters Solidarity Fast Group* put together information about prayer and fasting for their parishioners. We pray together in this way or others for a realization that **Black Lives Matter**.

Kieran Vaughan, CSJ

Following Consultation with my family, friends, members of the Pastoral Council of St Columba, and at the request of my parishioners who lovingly and prayerfully asked that I not proceed with my hunger strike to further highlight the plight of Black Lives Matter, I humbly and lovingly agreed to their request. The love and solidarity exhibited by the parishioners of St. Columba Catholic Church Oakland is awe-inspiring.

Fr. Aidan J. McAleenan

The Invitation

We, as a parish, have determined to stand in solidarity collectively and as the powerful community that is St Columba to perform an act of civil protest through the power of communal fasting.

As a community united in prayer and love for our Pastor, Fr. Aidan McAleenan, we cannot allow him to make the ultimate sacrifice and as such stand shoulder to shoulder with him. The power of community through selected fasting by those able is our testament and resolve to be united in spirit and determined to convey the only message in the spirit of love: **Black Lives Matter!** . . . More than

15 members of the St. Columba Community, including Fr. Aidan, have committed to fasting in solidarity for 1 week's time. **Starting date: Sunday, July 12, 2020.**

If for health reasons you are unable to fast, you are invited to pray in solidarity with those who are fasting. We are asking all those who are participating to pray at the time of the Angelus, 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.

The Father knows your heart; in fact, "the Father knows what you need before you ask Him" (Matt. 6:8)
The St. Columba Black Lives Matters Solidarity Fast Group

Excerpts from the Suggestions sent to those signing up to participate.

Thank you for signing up to participate in the St. Columba Black Lives Matter Solidarity Fast. . . . It is important that we enter into this period of fasting and prayer with Faith-filled purpose. It is a spiritual calling and is entered into prayerfully. Our reasoning to Fast is to start out on a collective spiritual plane that deepens our faith journey and to petition God our shared plea and prayer, Black Lives Matter.

Our purpose and prayer of intent is for the Systemic Change in society as a whole and in the Catholic Church specifically. If you have other prayers to add to your personal fast, please feel free to do so. We as a community will deepen our faith, expand our spiritual journey; enlighten, transform, and be ignited as we embark on our Forward Path to continue with our Black Lives Matter demonstrations, our Social Justice Calls to Action, and our support and love of each other and our Pastor, Fr. Aidan.

We pray that our collective effort may be to the Glory of God!

Joyce Scotlan. Alpha Administrator, St. Columba Catholic Church

<https://stcolumba-oak.com/newcomers> (excerpts) Plenty Good Room in My Father's House

Every Catholic Church is slightly different and takes on the feeling and norms of its participants. Here at St. Columba, this is no different. At a minimum, you should feel safe and welcomed. Please know it is our intent to be inclusive, authentic, and loving. . . .

What does "in the African-American tradition" mean?

We sing a lot, and African-American spirituals are a consistent part of our repertoire. Our phrases include "let the church say" and "we know who and whose we are". The saints on our wall, the Cross above us, and the symbols on our door reflect our African-American identity.

However, you will not be lost coming from other Roman Catholic churches no matter their particular background. The liturgy and its celebration are consistent and familiar to anyone who has been to a Catholic Mass. To anyone who hasn't, you don't know the difference but we hope it's beyond your expectations.