



# The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



St Columba's:  
Plas Newton Lane,  
Chester, CH2 1SA  
01244 624019

Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp  
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**Deacons:**  
**Rev Lawrence Hordley** 01244 342048, mobile 07960 517463  
**Rev Tom Coyle** mobile 07986 089773

St Theresa's  
128 Blacon Avenue  
Chester CH1 5BU  
01244 371660

Website: [www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](http://www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)  
Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

Chester Hospitals' Chaplaincy: Tel 01244 364543, answer phone available

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Sue Hutcheson (07964 130982 or 01244 371070) and Jane Walsh (07506 768870 or 01244 378201)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Saturday 11th December

St. Theresa's 5.00 pm Parishioners' Intentions  
St. Columba's 6.30 pm Adrienne Burrows

### Sunday 12th December

St. Theresa's 9.30 am Paul Blackhall RIP  
St. Columba's 11.00 am The Parish

### Monday 13th December - St Lucy V, M

St. Theresa's Rita Lyons & Mary West RIP  
St. Columba's Priests' Intentions

### Tuesday 14th December – St John of the Cross, P, D

St. Theresa's Killian Mooya's Intentions  
St. Columba's Parishioners' Intentions

### Wednesday 15th December

St. Theresa's Siddall Family Intentions  
St. Columba's 10.30am The Comerford Family

### Thursday 16th December

St. Theresa's Priests' Intentions  
St. Columba's Priests' Intentions

### Friday 17th December

St. Theresa's 10.00 am Brenda Sands RIP  
St. Columba's Parishioners' Intentions

### Saturday 18th December

St. Theresa's 5.00 pm Don Williams RIP  
St. Columba's 6.30 pm The Parish

### **STREAMING OF MASS:**

Mass will be streamed from St Columba's this Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

[www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa](http://www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa)

### **WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS:**

Please contact one of the Parish Offices to make your arrangements.

### **CONFESSION:**

St Columba's: From 6pm before the 6.30pm Saturday evening Mass and after the 10.30am Mass on Wednesday.  
St Theresa's: From 4.30pm before the 5pm Saturday evening and after the 10am Mass on Friday.

### **CONGREGATIONAL SINGING:**

Singing at Sunday morning Masses by the congregation is allowed, face coverings must be worn, and hymn books can be used at these Masses only.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

St Columba's: 4.30pm  
6.00pm  
8.00pm  
St Theresa's 4.30pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> Dec

St Theresa's 9.30am  
St Columba's 11.00am

**Please note that you will need to book for Christmas Mass. The links are below. Or ring the parish office.**

Booking for St. Theresa:

<https://forms.gle/JhVRz744hHDg1eou7>

Booking for St. Columba's:

<https://forms.gle/BJxgFBgeNsNFYuzW8>

### THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

St Theresa's 9.30am  
St Columba's 9.30am  
11.00am

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Maureen Elizabeth Sheriffs and Shirley Margaret Reynard.

### OFFERTORY:

**St. Columba's:** Loose plate; £164.28; Planned Giving £151.50 and Average weekly SOs £677.00

**St Theresa's:** Loose plate £173.75; Average weekly SOs £149. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

### ST COLUMBA'S COLLECTION FOR FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMASTIDE AND 2022.

An extra collection will be taken this weekend for flowers to decorate the church during Christmastide and throughout 2022. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### PIETY STALL AT BOTH CHURCHES

St Columba's have Christmas cards, calendars & a limited number of diaries ready for sale. If you require something else, please let us know. Please wear masks and keep a safe distance. At St Theresa's if anyone would like to look in the piety stall, please see Carole Ingram on a Sunday morning or Elizabeth Mair or Eileen Irwin on a Saturday evening.

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners this year's Advent is almost coming to an end and we will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ which comes every year with difference. We are still in COVID-19 pandemic but we believe and trust that the presence of Christ in our world gives us the strength to go through each day as it comes.

The Clergy of the parish would like to wish you, families and friends a joyous Christmas and a very Happy New Year full of hope.

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness, support, prayers and contributions in diverse ways to keep the parish going on.

God bless every one of you.

### CHURCHES TOGETHER - PRAYING TOGETHER:

This week we pray for:

- The residents of: Fowler Road, Clifton Drive, Blacon Point Road, Dalton Close, Glastonbury Avenue, Tewkesbury Close and Marlowe Avenue.
- For the Second Step Bereavement Care Scheme.
- For those who are bereaved and those who provide support.

### ADVENT TALKS:

The talks on the Advent Sunday Readings will conclude on Thursday at 2.30 p.m. in the Newman Room when we'll be looking at the readings for the fourth and final Sunday.

### ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA:

If you would like to volunteer to join the rota and raise money for your cause, please contact Margaret Curtis [01244 318424](tel:01244318424).

### LIGHT UP THE DARK AT CHRISTMAS:

The children at St Werburgh's and St Columba's School are hoping to light up the windows of their classroom's at night. By paying a minimum donation of £1, a candle will be lit along with your special message, memory or prayer for a loved one. All proceeds will go to The Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Backford.

**A poster will be on display in both churches with full details how to donate.**

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

It is with regret that the Senior Parishioners' Christmas Party had to be cancelled due to the increase in Covid 19 infections in our Schools and community and new Government guidance. The Parish wants to exercise the greatest caution to keep our parishioners safe and unfortunately the Christmas Carol Service has had to be cancelled too. We appreciate your understanding at this time of uncertainty.

### WORLD GIFTS FROM CAFOD:

World gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight people you give them to and help transform the lives of families living in poverty. Catalogues are available in the church porches.

### KEEP THE DATE FREE- Friday 28th January.

A fish and chip supper with music etc. will be held in St Columba's church hall to raise funds for Meningitis Now in memory of Richard Murphy and Helen Cadden who would have been 40 at this time. More details later. [Contact- c.murphy900@btinternet.com](mailto:c.murphy900@btinternet.com)

### ST.COLUMBA'S PARISH OFFICE:

St Columba's Parish Office hours are Monday – Friday 9.00am until 12 noon with effect from 13th December.

**Though for the week:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice [Philippians](#) 4:4–6.

**We're all in this together:** Mince pies, surely, we can't be the only family that does the rounds of a few shops to find our favourite mince pie of the season! Originally filled with meat rather than the fruits and spices that we get today, they were first made in an oval shape to represent the manger with the top layer of pastry as the swaddling cloth. Some having a pastry baby Jesus on top. They were said to have had 13 ingredients representing Jesus and his disciples. In Stuart and Georgian times, the pie became a status symbol with different shapes being made, stars, flowers etc. It wasn't until the late Victorian period that the meat was dropped, and they became the fruit treats that we know. A custom from the Middle Ages says that if you eat a mince pie on every day from Christmas to Twelfth Night (evening of the 5th of January) you will have happiness for the next 12 months! Who knows! Have you found your favourite? If I'm honest I still like homemade mince pies best!

**Resources:** Plenty of free activities are taking place at the Storyhouse, Chester. From bereavement help point; reading; crafting; sewing; chatter and natter; uplift groups and many more. Take a look at:

<https://www.storyhouse.com/guide/whats-on>

Blacon library also offering activities but via Zoom, Craft and chat group; Not a reading group; Reading friends book club. Enquiry form on web site or pop in for details.

### WANTED - PICTURES OF YOUR FAMILY NATIVITY SCENCE:

Three of our amazing children, Emma, Maria, and Sophie have recorded a lovely version of the Christmas Carol; "Little Donkey", we would like to post on our parish Facebook page and thought it would be really nice if we could have some photos of family nativity scenes to illustrate their beautiful singing. So, if you would like to take part, please take a photograph of your nativity scene and send it to Mark Traynor: [marktraynor96@gmail.com](mailto:marktraynor96@gmail.com) by Sunday 19th December and we will include it on our recording.

### ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH & HALL BOOKINGS

To arrange meetings etc. in either the Church, Newman Room or the Iona Chapel, please book through Nuala Keegan, Church Office, 01244 624019,

Email: [admin@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](mailto:admin@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)

Hall availability can be checked by looking at St Columba's Church website – section for Church Hall gives a calendar of events in the Hall. Then contact Sue Carr on 07553 114531 or email [columbashallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:columbashallbookings@gmail.com) to arrange booking.

**NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER:**

This will be compiled by Muriel Green  
Email: [admin@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](mailto:admin@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)  
Tel: 01244 383836

Please include a phone number in case of queries, and  
Please ensure that items are emailed or phoned to the  
compiler by 9.00 am on THURSDAY  
Website: [www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](http://www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)