



# 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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Assistant Priest: Fr James Mchamungu CSSp  
[app@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](mailto:app@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)  
General enquiries : [admin@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](mailto:admin@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)  
**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)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

19<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Saturday 18th December

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

### Sunday 19th December – Special Day of Prayer for

#### Expectant Mothers

St. Theresa's 9.30 am Frank & Mary Lally RIP  
St. Columba's 11.00 am Paula & Pete Graham

### Monday 20th December

St. Theresa's Fr Dennis Keating RIP  
St. Columba's **10.30am Funeral Service for Lina Safina**

### Tuesday 21st December – St Peter Canisius, P, D

St. Theresa's Fausto Biasillo RIP  
St. Columba's Parishioners' Intentions

### Wednesday 22nd December

St. Theresa's Brian Howe RIP  
St. Columba's 10.30am Priests' Intentions

### Thursday 23rd December

St. Theresa's Francis Lally RIP  
St. Columba's Priests' Intentions

### Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve

St. Theresa's 4.30pm Priests' Intentions  
St. Columba's 4.30pm Lily Jones & Keith Smith  
6.00pm Chrissie Harrison RIP  
8.00pm Carol Traynor

### Saturday 25th December – Christmas Day

St. Theresa's 9.30am The Parish  
St. Columba's 11.00am The Parish

#### **STREAMING OF MASS:**

Mass will be streamed from St Theresa's this Sunday at 09.30 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.

#### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Francis Joseph Lally, Alfred Desmond Fox, Jeremiah (Jerry) Ring

## **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**

#### **LATELY DEAD:**

Please pray for Lina Safina, Chrissie Harrison, Philomena Roche and Irene Williams, who have died recently. May the Lord grant them Eternal Rest and console their families and friends. Lina's funeral will be at 10.30am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December at St Columba's.

#### **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.

#### **COVID GUIDANCE:**

In line with Government guidance the Parish will be keeping the churches well ventilated, so everyone is encouraged to wrap up warm and also remember your face masks. Please don't forget to book in for your selected mass to ensure we can maintain appropriate social distancing and keep people safe.

## 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.

### OFFERTORY:

**St. Columba's:** Loose plate; £199.50; Planned Giving £107 and average weekly SOs £677.00

Thank you to the Wednesday and Thursday Badminton Groups for a recent donation of £207.

**St Theresa's:** Loose plate £208; Average weekly SOs £149. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

### 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.

### CHURCHES TOGETHER - PRAYING TOGETHER:

This week we pray for:

- The residents of Woodlea Avenue, Cornwall Road, Aldford Road, Rawson Road, Nant Peris, Plas Dinas, Glyn Garth and Sealand Road.
- All Age Family Worshop, Messy Church, Junior Church and Children's Liturgy.
- All children who attend our churches each Sunday, and their leaders.

### 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).

### 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 will be closed from 12 noon on Christmas Eve until 9.00am on Tuesday 4 January.

**Thought for the week:** "People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within." — Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

**We're all in this together:** Christmas can be a difficult time of the year; it often reminds us of people who are no longer with us, an empty seat at the table, or those who we may not be able to see due to distance or ill health. Many people feel overwhelmed by Christmas and often, amongst all the "noise", people can feel very lonely. [Mind](#) the charity says to be gentle, generous and patient with yourself, prioritise what is best for you; look after yourself; plan ahead; talk to other people and get support wherever you can. Maybe we can all help to be the light in the darkness; to provide calm in the storm; the love, hope and kindness that helps rejoice at this time of year. We can be that smile, that helping hand, that call on the phone, that meal at the table, that oasis of peace amongst the noise. Take care all.

**Resources** The local authority has activated the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol - **SWEP**. If you are sleeping rough in West Cheshire or know of someone who is or see someone who may need help to access emergency accommodation whilst SWEP is active please contact the rough sleeper helpline on 0300 123 2442 (option3) or email [outreachservices@forfutures.co.uk](mailto:outreachservices@forfutures.co.uk).

### NATIVITY SCENES:

Thank you to all who sent in pictures of your family nativity scenes to illustrate our Christmas Carol "Little Donkey" performed by Emma, Sophie and Maria. The video will be available to view from Monday 20th December on the parish Facebook

page: [www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa](https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa)

### CHRISTMAS FOODBANK APPEAL:

Thank you for your continuing support for our foodbank. Our help in providing food for local families who need crisis support is ongoing and is especially needed over the Christmas and New Year period. Items in short supply at the moment are tinned meats, UHT milk, UHT juice, tinned desserts, instant custard, treats (small bags of sweets/chocolates), small jars of instant coffee, jams and spreads, instant mash, tinned potatoes, pasta sauce, biscuits. We have plenty of beans and pasta in the warehouse. Please leave your donations at local supermarkets or at other collection points mentioned on the website [www.westcheshirefoodbank.org.uk](http://www.westcheshirefoodbank.org.uk). Thank you and a Happy Christmas to you all.

### MARY'S MEALS:

A simple solution to world hunger. It costs just £15.90 to feed a child with Mary's Meals for an entire school year. And until 31 January 2022, thanks to Double the Love, donations are being matched by a generous group of supporters, up to £1.6million. This means that you can transform the lives of two children by sending our £15.90 gift card, or by setting a place at our Big Family Christmas table. [info@marysmeals.org](mailto:info@marysmeals.org)

**CAFOD – AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL:**

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](http://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

**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 David Savage  
Email: [savage214@btinternet.com](mailto:savage214@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01244 380626

Please include a phone number in case of queries.  
Owing to the Christmas break, it will not be possible to include items submitted after 21 December.  
Website: [www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](http://www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)