



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
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)

CHRISTMAS DAY 2021

Saturday 25 December - The Nativity of The Lord

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

Sunday 26th - Feast of the Holy Family

St. Theresa's 9.30am Belinda Stone RIP
St. Columba's 9.30am David Savage
11.00am Paul Murphy RIP

Monday 27th December - St John, Apostle, Evangelist

St. Theresa's
St. Columba's Catherine Sullivan RIP

Tuesday 28th December - Holy Innocents

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

Wednesday 29th December - St Thomas Becket, Bishop,

Martyr

St. Theresa's
St. Columba's 10.30am Kevin Patrick Campbell

Thursday 30th December

St. Theresa's
St. Columba's John & Julie Briody

Friday 31st December - St Sylvester I, Pope

St. Theresa's 10.30am
St. Columba's Priests' Intentions

Saturday 1st January 2022 - Mary Mother of God

St. Theresa's 5.00pm
St. Columba's 6.30pm Lily James & Keith Smith

STREAMING OF MASS:

Mass will be streamed from St Theresa's today Christmas Day at 9.30am

www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa

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:

Jeremiah (Jerry) Ring, Michael Gerrard Dunne, Dylan Edward David Brown, Mary Beatrice Dee, Kenneth Rhoden, Bernard Harvey, Maureen Elizabeth Sheriffs and Shirley Margaret Reynard.

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.

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 has come to an end and we 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.

PIETY STALL AT BOTH CHURCHES

St Columba's have 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.

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 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)

OFFERTORY:

St. Columba's: Loose plate and Planned Giving - to be notified. Average weekly SOs £677.00

St Theresa's: Loose plate £173.75; Average weekly SOs £149.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support

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.

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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

Please note that Fr James will be away from 31st December until the beginning of February. We wish him a well deserved break.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most."

Ruth Carter Stapelton

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER:

"To us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Is 9:6). The theme of the Pope's last Christmas message looked at how Jesus was born for everyone, "the 'Son' that God has given to the entire human family" .. offering words of hope and consolation, saying a birth is always a source of hope, and "this Child, Jesus, was born 'to us' ... without any borders, privileges or exclusions." The Pope then went on to say that thanks to the Christ Child "we can all call one another brothers and sisters" even as we hail from every continent, every language and culture, with our own identities and differences. He said this fundamental reality is something we can all build on to address the monumental challenges we are facing at this moment in history, such as the ecological crisis and serious economic and social imbalances worsened by the coronavirus pandemic. These words remain true and will continue to do so. Can we become that source of hope, that source of light? We wish you all a very happy and joyful Christmas wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

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. 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

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 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

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 to arrange booking.

2nd JANUARY NEWSLETTER:

As next week's newsletter needs to be printed early because of the Christmas break, please advise the parish office of any late items for verbal announcement.

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