**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11TH DECEMBER 2022**

**Saturday 10th December**

St. Theresa’s 5.00pm Stephen Dale RIP

St. Columba’s 6.30pm The Parish

**Sunday 11th Decemb**

St. Theresa’s 9.30am The Evans family

St. Columba’s 11.00am Parishioners’ Intentions

**Monday 12th December**

St. Theresa’s Christine Harrison RIP

St. Columba’s 10.30am Priests’ Intentions

**Tuesday 13th December**

St. Theresa’s Irene William RIP

St. Columba’s Private Intention

**Wednesday 14th December - St John of The Cross. Mem**

St Theresa’s Joan Holland RIP

St. Columba’s 9.30amExposition of the Blessed Sac.

10.15amNovena Prayers

10.30am. Vickers and Mulee Families

**Thursday 15th December**

St. Theresa’s Parishioners’ Intentions

St Columba’s Parishioners’ Intentions

**Friday 16th December**

St. Theresa’s 10.00amFrank Karasiewicz RIP

St. Columba’s Gordon Townson

**Saturday 17th December**

St. Theresa’s 5.00pm Ruth O’Donnell RIP

St. Columba’s 6.30pm Victor Piggott RIP

**Sunday 18th December**

St. Theresa’s 9.30am Maureen Richards

St. Columba’s 11.00am Parishioners’ Intentions

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:**

There are cards available at both churches giving the Mass times of services over the Christmas period.  Please take one home with you.

**CORRECTION:** **Please note that the Holy Family Mass on 30th December at St Theresa’s is at 10.00 a.m. not as stated in the Parish Christmas Card.**

**CONFESSIONS:**

**There will be Confessions after every weekday Mass until 11.30am. at both churches.**

**St Columba’s:** From 6pm before the 6.30pm Saturday evening Mass.

**St Theresa’s:** From 4.30pm before 5pm Saturday evening Mass.

**WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS:**

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Mary Rhoden, Winifred Ann Mealing, Shirley Margaret Reynard, Maureen Elizabeth Sheriffs, Christina (Chrissie) Harrison, Irene Patricia Williams, Maureen Elizabeth Sheriffs, Fr Vincent O’Toole.

**LIVE STREAMING OF MASS:**

Mass will be streamed from St Theresa’s at 5.00 p.m. this Saturday 10th December. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT THE NORMAL DAY BUT WILL REVERT BACK TO USUAL ROUTINE NEXT WEEK.**

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

**PRAYING TOGETHER:**

We pray for:

* We pray for the residents of Woburn Drive, Halton Road, Dorset Place and Cotswold Close. Sumner Road, Fisher Road, Stamford Road, Church Way.
* For the Youth Clubs and Youth workers in our churches.
* For all young people in our community.

**OFFERTORY:**

**St Columba’s:**

Loose plate: £325.59; Planned Giving: £108.00;

Average weekly SOs - £574.00. Wednesday Tai Chi   £70.00

**St Theresa’s:** Loose plate and Planned Giving: £222.12

Average weekly SOs £161.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

**ST. COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA:**

11th Dec - Jane Hickson, World Scout Jamboree

18th Dec - volunteers please

25th Dec - Christmas Day

  1st Jan - New Year's Day

**NEW 2023 Coffee Rota in St Columba's Hall**

If you would like to volunteer to raise money for your cause during 2023, please put you name on the rota in the hall and let Margaret Curtis know, too please: [01244 318424](tel:+441244318424)

**CAROL CONCERTS:**

**St Werburgh’s & St Columba’s Primary School** will be holding their school Carol Concert on **Tuesday 13th December at 7.00pm** in St Columba’s church.

**St Theresa’s Primary School** Carol Concert is also taking place on **Tuesday 13th December at 6.00pm** in St Theresa’s church.

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend either ( or both!) of these events..

**OUR PARISH ADVENT JOURNEY:**

Our Advent journey has begun- Mary, Joseph and donkey (knitted figures) have visited a number of families within the Parish this week and will continue on their travels to Bethlehem (St Theresa's crib) to arrive on 23rd December at the Carol Service.  If you would like to join in, please sign the list in the church porch with your name and address and contact number. We would love to hear the stories of their travels or send us a photograph or drawing.

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY:**

Children's Liturgy at St. Columba’s in the Newman Room will continue at 11am Mass on the first Sunday of each month.  Children of all ages are welcome. We would love to be able to increase the frequency as our children are the future of our parish. We currently only have four volunteers.  Should you wish to become involved we would be delighted to hear from you.

**SYNOD 2021-2024**

**Communion Participation Mission**

Last month the Newsletter item of ‘Synod News’ reported that the Synod has reached the ‘continental phase’ with the issue of the ‘*Document for the Continental Stage’*, following the local and national listening sessions held earlier this year. The Vatican has announced that the Document is now to be sent to the local Churches as part of a ‘restitution stage’. Bishop Mark explains: *‘... local bishops have been asked to facilitate a consideration of the three themes in a working document* (the Document for the Continental Stage) *produced at a meeting in Frascati. I have asked our synod team who prepared the synthesis for the Diocese to reconvene for this stage of restitution. The reflections will be forwarded to the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales for wider consideration.’*

Please pray for the Synod and for our participation, walking together along the way, united in Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

**Adsumus Sancte Spiritus:**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

**CHRISTINGLE CAROL – 11.00 a.m. MASS:**

**1**. O sing about Christingle, your voices loud employ,

Your praises bring to God our King, for Jesus and His joy.

**2.** The orange of Christingle, the world reminds us of,

And how our God created us, and on us shed His love.

**3.** The candle of Christingle, with shining flame so bright,

Reminds us of our loving Lord, who is the world’s true light.

**4.** The red band of Christingle, which plainly we can see,

Reminds us of how Jesus Christ was killed upon that tree.

**5.** The four sticks of Christingle, with which the orb we spear,

Remind us how God cares for us, through seasons of the year.

**6.** The fruits of the Christingle, they have a special worth,

Reminding of the Spirit’s fruits as well as fruits of earth.

**7.** The whole of the Christingle, it is a joy to see,

It shines to show how God our Father loves both you and me.

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS:**

If you would like to become a Eucharistic Minister or Reader, at either church, please contact the Parish Office at St Theresa’s (email [st.theresas@btinternet.com](mailto:st.theresas@btinternet.com) ).

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:**

There will be a collection, at St. Columba's, after Masses on 17th & 18th December to cover the cost of flowers for the for your continued generosity and support.

**FR JAMES:**

Fr James will be taking a well-earned Sabbatical early next year.  This means that he will be leaving the parish in January.  We thank him for all his hard work and wish him well for the future.

**If you wish to donate towards Fr Jame’s leaving present, please put your donation in an envelope marked ‘Fr Jame’s Collection’ and place in the Offertory basket.**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**:

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive. Dalai Lama

**RESOURCES:**

Free willow weaving workshops with Sarah Gallagher-Hayes where you make a festive star or wreath, when- Sunday 11 December various time slots, where -Countess of Chester Country Park Valley Drive Chester CH2 1UL, booking essential <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/willow-wreath-star-making-workshop-tickets-479330148377>

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

* Saturday 17 December Seniors Christmas Party free food and drinks starting at 1:30 pm in St Columba’s hall
* Friday 23 December Carol Service at St Theresa’s starting at 6:30 pm. Followed by mulled wine in the Parish Centre

 See newsletters and notice boards for further information

**PIETY STALL – ST COLUMBA’S:**

The Piety stall is now selling Christmas cards – single, packets and boxes. If you require any special items please contact Janet McCabe on 01244 329469 who can order for you.

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS:**

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

**ST COLUMBA’S – BOOKCASE IN FRONT PORCH**

We are hoping to classify the books and resources which are currently on the small bookcase in the front porch. Parishioners and parish groups are invited to check the bookcase before **31st December** and identify any books etc to be retained. Those which are kept can then be classified and unwanted items removed.

**Please note that the electronic version of the newsletter on the website may contain additional items which it has not been possible to include in the printed copy this week.**

**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: [stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com](mailto:stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com)

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 Amy O’Donnell

Phone: 07854 290897

Email: amyod@hotmail.co.uk

Please include a phone number in case of queries, and

Please ensure that items are emailed or phoned to the

Compiler by **9.00a.m. on WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER**

Website: www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

**WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER:**

Walking the other day I saw a bin lorry with the words “Tomorrow, starts today” down the side. I know this relates to how we use our resources and recycle, reuse, reduce and what that might mean for us all trying to help reduce the impact of climate change, but it got me thinking about how it might also relate to Advent. With three of our candles being lit this weekend on our advent wreath, we celebrate, hope, faith, and joy. Our todays set the foundation for our tomorrows. If we can make these elements a presence in our daily lives, then our tomorrows will be richer for it.

**ADVENT APPEAL FOR FOOD BANK DONATIONS:**

Thank you for your great response to our Advent appeal. There are donation points in the front porches of both Churches highlighted by our Parish Youth Group. The Food Bank are pleased with all donations but in particular over the weeks of Advent would like to highlight

Wk2 - Meat & fish pastes, tins of and tinned meals

Wk 3 - Non cook items - instant soups, pasta and noodles

Wk4 - Tinned puddings, custard, jams, spreads and sweet treats.

**CHRISTIAN ICONS:**

An icon exhibition will be held at St Theresa’s Church, Green Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1LD on 11-18 December. Opening times 7.15a.m. – 6.00p.m. See notice boards for further details.

**WARM WELCOME SPACE**

There is a free, warm welcome and safe space at Holy Trinity Church Blacon on the following days: -

Monday 12 – 5pm

Thursday 2 – 5pm

Sunday 1-5pm

[Find a warm space](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.warmwelcome.uk%2F%23find-a-space&data=05%7C01%7C%7C41f57e0fc7734d7c9b4908dac63c8c6e%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638040260597114517%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bGx34uwYFXKfMaGCAnfiFBScseV%2Bvs1%2F2ZVRvqe3pK0%3D&reserved=0) web page links to all available warm spaces, search by area.

**PARISH PEACE GARDEN:**

A few of our parishioners in conjunction with Chester Zoo, have been working hard to clear a piece of overgrown wasteland, adjacent to the presbytery at St Theresa’s, into a usable space for the parish.  They have secured lottery funding for £10,000 to enable the area to be paved for easy access and the 200 club contributed the rest.  This is a space which can be used by all so please take a look.  A big thank you to those who made this possible.  Anyone wishing to do some gardening please see Eileen Mapp or contact St Theresa’s Parish office.

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP FORMATION:**

The Christian leadership Formation programme is open to students of any Christian denomination and is a unique opportunity for students from lower 6 or above.  For further information please go to [www.christianheritagecentre.com/clf](http://www.christianheritagecentre.com/clf)