



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp

pp@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr James Mchamungu CSSp

app@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

Deacons:

Rev Lawrence Hordley 01244 342048, mobile 07960 517463

Rev Tom Coyle mobile 07986 089773

Website: www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

St Theresa's
128 Blacon Avenue
Chester CH1 5BU

01244 371660

st.theresas@btinternet.com

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

01244 624019

stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

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)

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18TH DECEMBER 2022

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

Lily Jones RIP

Monday 19th December

St. Theresa's

Parishioners' Intentions

St. Columba's 10.30am

Paula & Pete Graham

Tuesday 20th December

St. Theresa's Living & deceased members & friends of the Williams family

Priest's Intentions

St. Columba's

Wednesday 21st December

St. Theresa's

Special Intention LB

St. Columba's 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sac.

10.15am Novena Prayers

10.30am. Private Intention

Thursday 22nd December

St. Theresa's

Constance & Joseph Rowlands

St. Columba's

The Parish

Friday 23rd December

St. Theresa's 10.00am

Joseph Russell RIP

St. Columba's

Priests' Intentions

Saturday 24th December

St. Theresa's 4.30pm

Mary & Frank Lally RIP

Children's Readings and Carols followed by Vigil Mass

St. Columba's 6.00pm

John & Julie Briody

Children's Nativity Mass followed by Vigil Mass

St. Columba's 9.00pm

Carol Traynor

Mass During Night

Sunday 25th December – The Nativity of the Lord

St. Theresa's 9.30am: Parishioners' Intentions

Dawn Mass

St. Columba's 11.00am Catherine Sullivan

Mass of the Day

If visiting our churches this weekend, please be careful of the icy conditions underfoot due to the cold weather.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:

Fr William and Fr James would like to wish everyone a Happy & Holy Christmas.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Please remember in your prayers Barbara Cross who died recently, and also her family and friends. Barbara's funeral service is at St Theresa's on Tuesday 10th January at 12 noon.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Vincent O'Toole, Ruth O'Donnell, Francis Joseph Lally, Alfred Desmond Fox, Jeremiah (Jerry) Ring.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS:

Mass will be streamed from St Theresa's at 9.30am this Sunday 18th December.

www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa

PRAYING TOGETHER:

We pray for:

- The residents of Woodlea Avenue, Cornwall Road, Aldford Road. For Hatton Road, Pulford Road, Leaside Road, Fernhill Road.
- For All Age Family Worship, Messy Church, Junior Church and Children's Liturgy.
- For all children who attend our churches each Sunday and their leaders.

OFFERTORY:

St Columba's:

Loose plate: £197.22; Planned Giving: £189.50;

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

St Theresa's: Loose plate and Planned Giving: £221.40

Average weekly SOs £161.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

PARISH OFFICES:

St Columba's office will close at 12 noon on Friday 23 December and reopen on Friday 30 December at 9.00am.

St Theresa's office will also close from Friday 23rd December but urgent contact can be made over the festive period by calling the Presbytery on 01244 371660.

NEWSLETTER OVER CHRISTMAS:

Please be aware that the 25th December and 1st January editions of the newsletter will both be sent to print on Wednesday 21st December. Any items to include should be submitted by 9am on Tuesday 20th December. Items which arise after this can be submitted and an update will be given verbally at the end of Masses.

ST. COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA:

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 your name on the rota in the hall and let Margaret Curtis know, too please: [01244 318424](tel:01244318424)

OUR PARISH ADVENT JOURNEY:

Mary, Joseph and the donkey (knitted figures) have been travelling around families in Upton and Hoole over the last couple of weeks and have even travelled as far as Tattenhall! They are now visiting families in Blacon but made a brief return visit to St Columba's on 12th Dec to join the Youth Group. They certainly have been well looked after especially in this really cold weather. Children will bring them into St Theresa's for the Carol Service on 23rd Dec at 6.30pm.

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.

YOUTH GROUP:

Many thanks to the young people who have joined our Parish Youth Group since we re-launched in October. We have had three successful meetings and we can't wait for many more to come. We meet on the third Monday of the month, beginning in the Iona Chapel at St Columba's, from 7.15pm – 8.45pm. Young people from Year 5 onwards are welcome to come and learn more about their faith, make friends and have fun. Our next meeting is on Monday 16th January.

EUCCHARISTIC 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).

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

St Columba's: 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.

St Theresa's: If you would like to donate towards flowers please put in an envelope marked 'Christmas Flowers.' Thanks to those who have already given.

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 James' leaving present, please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Fr James Collection' and place in the Offertory basket.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day, saying, "I will try again tomorrow". Mary Anne Radmacher

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER:

The fourth candle of Advent is sometimes known as the "Angel candle" and symbolizes peace. The name comes from the fact that the angel announced that Jesus came to bring "peace on earth, good will towards men". Peace to the world and our hearts. Peace on earth can sometimes seem daunting; how can I achieve that? With small steps, we can all hold peace in our hearts. By treating people fairly and working towards justice and ending poverty, by respecting others and showing kindness, we can all help bring about peace on earth, good will towards men. May your week be filled with love, hope, faith and peace.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

- 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.

200 CLUB:

The grand draw will take place this weekend. Good Luck and thank you for your support. If you would like to join the 200 club please ring St Theresa's Parish Office on a Wednesday or Friday morning on 01244 371660 or see Roly Martin or Eileen Irwin.

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

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.

NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER:

25th December edition will be compiled by Eileen Irwin
Phone: 01244 371660

Email: st.theresas@btinternet.com

1st January edition will be compiled by Alison Wrigglesworth
Phone: 01244 382457

Email: a.wrigglesworth@outlook.com

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 TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER**

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

Week 4 - Tinned puddings, custard, jams, spreads and sweet treats.

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](#) web page links to all available warm spaces, search by area.

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.