



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp

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Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

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128 Blacon Avenue
Chester CH1 5BU

01244 371660
st.theresas@btinternet.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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4TH DECEMBER 2022

Saturday 3rd December

St. Theresa's	5.00pm	Parishioners' Intentions
St. Columba's	6.30pm	The Parish

Sunday 4th December

St. Theresa's	9.30am	Keith Evans RIP
St. Columba's	11.00am	Parishioners' Intentions

Monday 5th December

St. Theresa's		Eddie Mapp RIP
St. Columba's	10.30am	Kenneth Klepallo RIP

Tuesday 6th December

St. Theresa's		Special Intention
St. Columba's		The Parish

Wednesday 7th December – St Ambrose, B, D

St. Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St. Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sac.
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	David Vaughan RIP

Thursday 8th December – Immac. Concept. of the BVM

St. Theresa's	10.00am	Parishioners' Intentions
St. Columba's	12.30pm	Requiem Mass Victor A. Piggott

Friday 9th December

St. Theresa's	10.00am	Catherine Woods Ints.
St. Columba's		Private Intention

Saturday 10th December

St. Theresa's	5.00pm	Stephen Dale RIP
St. Columba's	6.30pm	The Parish

Sunday 11th December

St. Theresa's	9.30am	Evans Family RIP
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.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 8th DECEMBER:

There will be Mass for the parish at St Theresa's on Thursday 8th December at 10am for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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:

Christian Mapp, Mary Taylor, Edwin Albert (Eddie) Mapp, Bridget O'Connor, Margaret Hocking, Calogera Anna (Lina) Safina, Mary Rhoden, Winifred Ann Mealing.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Please remember in your prayers Victor Alfred Piggott who died recently. May the Lord grant him Eternal Life and console his family and friends. Victor's Requiem Mass is at St Columba's on Thursday 8th December at 12.30pm.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS:

Mass will be streamed from St Columba's at 11am this Sunday 4th December 2022.

www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa

PRAYING TOGETHER:

We pray for:

- Pray for the residents of Glastonbury Avenue, Tewkesbury Close, Marlowe Avenue, Cleaveland Road, Stratford Road, Walton Place and Downham Place
- For those who are bereaved and those who provide support

OFFERTORY:

St Columba's:

Loose plate: £321.61 Planned Giving: £133.00

Average weekly SOs - £574.00.

St Theresa's: Loose plate and Planned Giving: £234.25

Average weekly SOs £161.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

ST. COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA:

4th December Volunteers please

11th December Jane Hickson, World Scout Jamboree

18th December Volunteers please

If you would like to volunteer to raise money for your cause, please put your name on the rota in the hall or contact Margaret Curtis on 01244 318424

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.

YOUTH GROUP:

The next meeting of the Parish Youth Group will be on Monday 12th December in the Iona Chapel and Newman Room at 7.15 – 8.45pm. We welcome young people from School Years 5 – 10 (age 9-15). Come along and learn more about your faith, meet new friends and play some games. We look forward to seeing you there!

New members will need their parents to fill in a consent form at the start of the meeting.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

- Sat 17 December Seniors Christmas Party St Columba's
- Friday 23 December Carol Service St Theresa's

See newsletters and notice boards for further information

THANK YOU:

A big thank you to the Social Committee for organising the Autumn Fayre last weekend and to all who helped and supported it.

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE – 5th DECEMBER:

This is at Holy Trinity Church, Blacon on Monday 5th December at 6pm. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

If anyone would like to donate towards the Christmas flowers please put it in an envelope marked 'FLOWERS' and place it in the Offertory basket.

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.

CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE – 11.00 MASS:

Cloth for the cradle, cradle for the child.

The child for our every joy and sorrow;

Find him a shawl that's woven by us all

To welcome the Lord of each tomorrow

1. Darkness and light and all that's known by sight,
Silence and echo fading,

Weave into one a welcome for the Son.

Set earth its own maker serenading.

2. Hungry and poor, the sick and the unsure,
Wealthy whose needs are stranger,

Weave into one a welcome for the Son,

Leave excess and want beneath the manger.

3. Claimant and queen, wage earners in between,
Trader and travelling preacher

Weave into one a welcome for the Son,

Whose word brings new life to every creature.

4. Wrinkled or fair, carefree or full of care,

Searchers of all the ages,

Weave into one a welcome for the Son,

The Saviour of shepherd and of sages.

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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.

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

This will be compiled by Harry Sweeney

Phone: 01244 327462

Email: harrysweeney45@gmail.com

Please include a phone number in case of queries, and please ensure that items are emailed or phoned to the compiler by

9.00am on **WEDNESDAY 7th December**

Website: www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

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.

Thought for the week: "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in your faith, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit you may be rich in hope." Romans 15:13

We're all in this together: Each of the candles on our advent wreath symbolise different things: hope, faith, joy and peace. The Romans quote in Thought for the week brings all of those elements together beautifully. What things make you hopeful in these difficult times? How do we become that hope, and share that light of Jesus that can be celebrated and appreciated? As the Pope says, "all it takes is one good person to restore hope". So let's go out and spread hope and light through all our actions. Have a lovely week.

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.

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).

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.

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.

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.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY:

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) followed by a general Hospitality Meetings will take place **TODAY** Sunday 4th December 2022 at 2pm at St Columba's Parish Hall, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1PL. The EGM is being held to discuss constitutional change. For further information contact

secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk or text/call [07451 249267](tel:07451249267)

PARISH PEACE GARDEN: