



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp

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Deacons:

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Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

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St Theresa's
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)

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

25th DECEMBER 2022

Saturday 24th December- The Nativity of the Lord

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

9.00pm Carol Traynor

Mass during the Night

Sunday 25th December

St. Theresa's 9.30am Parishioners' Ints

Dawn Mass

St. Columba's 11.00am Catherine Sullivan

Mass of the Day

Monday 26th December-Feast of St Stephen. M

St. Theresa's Paul Murphy RIP

St. Columba's 12 noon Kevin & Francis & Martin Connolly

Tuesday 27th December-St John.Ap.Ev

St. Theresa's Michael Dunne RIP

St. Columba's Priests' Intentions

Wednesday 28th December-The Holy Innocents Mm

St Theresa's Mena & Larry Pellegrini RIP

St. Columba's 10.30am Aunty Lil & Keith

***Only Mass – no Devotions**

Thursday 29th December -St Thomas Beckett

St. Theresa's Private Int

St Columba's Fr James

Friday 30th December – The Holy Family

St. Theresa's 10.00am Joseph Murphy RIP

St. Columba's **Mass at St Theresa's onl**

Saturday 31st December -7th Day of Octave

St. Theresa's 4.30pm Parishioners' Ints

St. Columba's 6.30pm Sr Anne Morris

Sunday 1st January-Solemnity Mary Mother of God

St. Theresa's 9.30am: Priests' Intentions

St. Columba's 11.00am Parishioners' Intentions

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS:

Mass will be streamed from St Columba's at 11.00am this Sunday 25th December.

www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:

Fr William and Fr James would like to wish everyone a Happy & Holy Christmas and to thank you for your cards, gifts and good wishes.

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 and Margaret Allmark who died recently, and also their families and friends. **Barbara's funeral service is at St Theresa's on Wednesday 11th January at 1pm.** NB this has been changed from the date given previously.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jeremiah (Jerry) Ring, Michael Gerrard Dunne, Dylan Edward David Brown, Mary Beatrice Dee, Jean Barbara Mary Blake, Margaret Dos Anjos

OFFERTORY:

St Columba's:

Loose plate: £TBA Planned Giving: £TBA;

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

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

Average weekly SOs £161.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

PARISH OFFICES:

St Columba's office will reopen on Friday 30 December at 9.00am.

St Theresa's office will also close until Friday 30th December but urgent contact can be made over the festive period by calling the Presbytery on 01244 371660.

ST. COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA:

25th Dec - Christmas Day

1st Jan - New Year's Day

PRAYING TOGETHER

- Pray for the residents of Dorset Road, Shipbrook Road, Mannings Lane South and Peckforton Way, for Harthill Road, The Parade, Tomlin's Terrace, Carlisle Road
- For the work of Churches Together in Upton and Churches Together in Chester. For the Churches in Upton: Holy Ascension, United Reformed, St Columba's and the Baptist Church.

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) arrived at St Theresa's for the Carol Service on 23rd December, after travelling around families in the parish.

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 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.

200 CLUB:

The names of the winners will be announced soon. 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.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humour. Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol.

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER Looking out on the wintery scenes that we have seen recently, I spotted on one of our windows a most beautiful garland of ice crystals. On closer inspection, they were all slightly different but beautiful and unique in their own right. Then I thought about the birth of Jesus and all of us in our community. Each one of us is unique and beautiful, just like the ice crystals. We are all that miracle. May the love and hope and peace and joy we feel during Advent and this Christmas season continue to flow through our lives and actions. Merry Christmas one and all.

WARM WELCOME SPACE

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

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| Monday | 12 – 5pm |
| Thursday | 2 – 5pm |
| Sunday | 1-5pm |

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

Resources Need help to manage escalating energy costs? Grants are available from a number of energy suppliers. [Cheshire Community Action](#) has a list of energy suppliers and grants available through them, as well as tops for young people, off grid properties and individuals.

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:

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

Email: a.wrigglesworth@outlook.com

As next week's newsletter has had to be printed early because of the Christmas break, please advise the parish office of any late items for verbal announcement by contacting the Presbytery at St Theresa's 01244 371660. Thank you

