



# The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



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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](mailto: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)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**24TH DECEMBER 2023**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

St. Theresa's 5.00p.m. Frank & Mary Lally RIP  
 St Columba's 6.30p.m. The Parish

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Vigil Mass**

St. Theresa's 9.30a.m. Geoff Parry  
 4.30p.m. Carols & Readings  
 5.00p.m. Parishioners' Intentions  
 St. Columba's 11.00a.m. Edward Elwell & Family  
 4.30p.m. Childrens' Nativity followed  
 by Mass Kevin, Francis & Martin Connolly

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December. – Nativity of The Lord**

St Theresa's 9.30a.m. Parishioners' Intentions  
 St. Columba's 11.00a.m. Paul Murphy

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December – St Stephen**

St. Theresa's 12 noon

**MASS AT ST. THERESA'S** Altar Servers Intentions  
 St. Columba NO MASS Priests' Intentions

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December – St John, Ap. Ev**

St Theresa's Michael Gerrard Dunne RIP  
 St Columba's 9.30a.m. Exposition of the Blessed  
 Sacrament 10.15a.m. Novena Prayers  
 10.30a.m. Ellie Marsden Ann.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December – The Holy Innocents. Mem**

St. Theresa's Ronnie Evans RIP  
 St Columba's 10.00a.m. Requiem Mass for Cathy Carter

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December – St Thomas Becket, B, M**

St. Theresa's 10.00a.m. John Murphy RIP  
 6.30p.m. Parish Carol Service

St. Columba's. Mavis Skinner

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December – 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Xmas Octave**

St. Theresa's 5.00p.m. Constance and Joseph Rowland  
 St Columba's 6.30p.m. Gerry Galvin

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December – The Holy Family**

St Theresa's 9.30a.m. Keith Evans RIP  
 St Columba's. 11.00a.m. Mary & Mike Kiernan

*Please note if there is no time next to Mass it means there is no Mass for parishioners to attend that day but the Priests will say Mass privately.*

**Christmas Mass Times – St Columba's: –**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – 6.30p.m.**  
 Vigil Mass

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve – 11.0a.m. Mass**  
 - 4.30p.m. Children's Nativity Mass

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day – 11.00a.m. Mass**  
 (Streamed).

**Christmas Mass Times – St Theresa's: –**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve - 4.30p.m. Carols**  
 followed by Vigil Mass 5.00p.m.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

9.30a.m. Christmas Day Mass

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December – Feast of St Stephen**

12 noon - **ST THERESA'S ONLY!**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December – The Holy Family**

St Theresa's - 9.30a.m.

St Columba's – 11.00a.m.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 - Mary Mother of God**

10.30a.m. – St Columba's

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:**

For people with disabilities Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusion programmes that value their active participation.

**WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS:**

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

**CONFESSIONS:**

There will be Confessions after each weekday Mass until 11.30am.

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

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Please remember in your prayers Cath Carter, Joyce Backhouse and Desmond Dunne who died recently. May the Lord console their Family and friends.

Cath's Requiem will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December at St Columba's.

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Ruth O'Donnell, Francis Joseph Lally, Alfred Desmond Fox, Ellie Marsden, Jeremiah (Jerry) Ring,

Michael Gerrard Dunne, Mary Beatrice Dee, Dylan Edward David Brown, Mary Beatrice Dee.

**LIVE STREAMING OF MASS:**

Mass will be streamed from St Theresa's at 9.30a.m. **this Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December and at 11.00 a.m. Mass at St Columba's on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December.**

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

**PARISH OFFICES CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:**

The offices will close on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and re-open on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. In an emergency please call 01244 371660.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:**

Fr William and Fr Desmond wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and thank you all for your support throughout the year.

### PRAYER FOR REFUGEES FROM FR WILLIAM:

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ as we celebrate Christmas we pray for refugees and places where there is civil unrest. May Christ's coming bring justice and peace in our world and give wisdom to leaders to govern their citizens with love.

### PRAYING TOGETHER

We pray for:

- Pray for the residents of Dorset Road, Shipbrook Road, Mannings Lane South, Peckforton Way, Hereford Worcester Place, Ludlow Road and Mayfield 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.

### OFFERTORY:

**St Columba's:** Loose plate £335. 81; Planned Giving £157. 50; Average Weekly SO - £574.00; Candles £323.31

**St Theresa's:** Loose plate & Planned Giving £; Average weekly SO - £161.00.

THANK YOU for all your generous support.

### ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA:

24<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Eve

31<sup>st</sup> Jan - New Year's Eve

Please consider donating a little time to make tea and coffee after 11:00 Mass on Sunday at St Columba's. You can make £30-£50 for your chosen cause, too. Call Margaret Curtis 01244 318424 to book your date(s) - we need volunteers for 2024.

### ST THERESA'S - CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

If anyone would like to donate towards the Christmas flowers at St Theresa's, please put your donation in an envelope marked "FLOWERS" and place in the Offertory basket. Many thanks.

### NEWSLETTER WARNING:

Our printers close over the Christmas/New Year season, we will therefore be preparing three newsletters, early, the deadline date for all three for item inclusion will be **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 9am** at the latest. Please email or phone items to the compiler. Include your phone number in case of queries.

If you can prepare items before this date that would be much appreciated. Urgent items received after that date can be verbally communicated.

**Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Amy O'Donnell, [amyod@hotmail.com](mailto:amyod@hotmail.com) 07854 290897

**New Year 31<sup>st</sup> Dec** – Eileen Irwin, [st.theresas@btinternet.com](mailto:st.theresas@btinternet.com) 01244 371660

### NORA "NOREEN" OWEN (NEE MANNION):

Nora, who was a parishioner of St Columba's for many years before she moved to Hampshire, passed away peacefully on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023, aged 96 at Abbots Barton Nursing Home, Winchester, with her close family at her bedside. The funeral service will be held at St Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.00 am, to be followed by a burial at Baunoge, Letterfrack, County Galway, Ireland on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> January. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired to, Winchester Hospice Fundraising Charity can be made at [www.steelsfunerals.co.uk](http://www.steelsfunerals.co.uk).

### ST COLUMBA'S CAR PARK:

The contractors have informed us that the re-surfacing of the car park is due to commence in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> January. I will provide further information as it becomes available.

### CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE:

A time to remember those who will not be able to celebrate Christmas this year. There will be a tree and cards on the side Altar (near the back door) at St. Columba's to write your message and hang it on the tree. The message is the important thing, but if anyone wishes to donate, there will be a basket for donations in aid of the Parish Third World Project.

### LOURDES HOSPITALITY UPDATE:

Further to the recent AGM, the officers have been meeting monthly to discuss the issues raised and future plans. A face-to-face meeting for all members will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (venue and time to be confirmed). In the meantime, if you have any questions for us, please send an email to: [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk)

### PIETY STALL:

The Piety stall is now selling Christmas Cards, diaries and calendars. If you need anything else, I have a catalogue, please telephone me on 01244 329469. Many thanks.

**CAFOD 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 available in the church porches along with Advent prayer cards.

**Thought for the week:** How great is it to live under a sky that is repainted every day by the greatest artist? (unknown)

**We're all in this together:** We light our fourth Advent candle this week, the purple candle, representing love. With all four candles lit on our Advent wreath, we will have a full circle of light. The Lord brings the light of love to his people by sending His only Son to earth for our salvation. Let us be that light for others. Remember "You don't have to give things at Christmas but, if you give yourself, if you give everything you have, if you give the gift of love to each other, then that is the heart of Christmas." Fr Hanley.

### ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH & HALL BOOKINGS

To arrange meetings etc. in either the Church, Newman Room or the Iona Chapel, please book through Carol Galvin, St. Columba's Church Office

Phone: 01244 624019

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

**Office hours Monday to Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm**

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:

31<sup>st</sup> December edition will be compiled by Eileen Irwin  
Phone: 01244 371660 or 01244 379443

Email: [st.theresas@btinternet.com](mailto:st.theresas@btinternet.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 WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> December**

Website: [www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](http://www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)

**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.**