



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



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Deacon:

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Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

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

01244 624019
stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17TH DECEMBER 2023

Saturday 16th December

St. Theresa's 5.00p.m. Ruth O'Donnell RIP
 St Columba's 6.30p.m. John Black bday

Sunday 17th December

St. Theresa's 9.30a.m. Mary "Cathy" Carney
 St. Columba's 11.00a.m. The Parish

Monday 18th December

St Theresa's Parishioners' Intentions
 St. Columba's 10.30a.m. Private Intention

Tuesday 19th December

St. Theresa's Frank Lally RIP
 St. Columba's Catherine (Kitty) McAlinden RIP

Wednesday 20th December

St Theresa's Parishioners' Intentions
 St Columba's 9.30a.m. Exposition of the Blessed
 Sacrament 10.15a.m. Novena Prayers
 10.30a.m. Bob Breen RIP

Thursday 21st December

St. Theresa's. 10.15a.m. Requiem Mass for
 Desmond Dunne RIP
 1.30p.m. Mass for St Theresa's School
 The Parish

Friday 22nd December

St. Theresa's 10.00a.m. Joseph Russell RIP
 6.30p.m. Parish Carol Service
 St. Columba's. Priests' Intentions

Saturday 23rd December

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

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

St. Theresa's 9.30a.m. Geoff Parry RIP
 4.30p.m. Carols & Readings followed by
 5.00p.m. Mass Parishioners' Intentions
 St. Columba's 11.00a.m. Edward Elwell & Family
 4.30p.m. Children's Nativity

Followed by Mass Kevin, Francis & Martin Connolly
*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 23rd December - 4th Sunday of Advent – 6.30p.m.
 Vigil Mass

Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve - 4.30p.m.
 Children's Nativity Mass

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day - 11.00a.m. Mass
 (Streamed).

Christmas Mass Times – St Theresa's: –

Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve - 4.30p.m. Carols
 followed by Vigil Mass 5.00p.m.

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.30a.m. Christmas Day Mass

Tuesday 26th December – Feast of St Stephen

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

Sunday 31st December – The Holy Family

St Theresa's - 9.30a.m.

St Columba's – 11.00a.m.

Monday 1st 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 28th December at St Columba's.

Desmond's Requiem will be held at 10.15am on Thursday 21st December at St Theresa's.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Vincent O'Toole, Catherine (Kitty) McAlinden, Margaret Rose Allmark, Ruth O'Donnell, Francis Joseph Lally, Alfred Desmond Fox, Ellie Marsden.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS:

Mass will be streamed from St Columba's at 11.00 0a.m. **this Sunday 17th December 2023.**

www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa

PARISH OFFICES CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:

The offices will close on Friday 22nd December and re-open on Tuesday 2nd 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.

CHRISTINGLE CAROL – 11.00A.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.

PRAYING TOGETHER

We pray for:

- The residents of Woodlea Avenue, Cornwall Road, Aldford Road, Blacon Avenue, Keats Terrace, Blacon Hall Road and Malvern Road.
- All Age Family Worship, Messy Church, Junior Church and Children's Liturgy.
- All children who attend our churches each Sunday and their leaders.

OFFERTORY:

St Columba's: Loose plate £207.10; Planned Giving £93.00; Average Weekly SO - £574.00; Candles £36.29; Wednesday Badminton £200.

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

THANK YOU for all your generous support.

ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA

17th Dec - Richard Curtis for Altar Servers' 'Thank you' Outing
Why not donate a little time to make tea and coffee after 11:00 Mass on Sunday? You can make some money for your favourite charity, too. Call Margaret Curtis 01244 318424 to book your date(s).

CAKES FOR CLAIRE – THANK YOU:

Very many thanks to everyone who selflessly bought huge amounts of cake to raise funds for MIND on 3rd December in memory of our friend Claire Graham. We raised the astonishing sum of £410 on the day. Cakes By Annabel generated another £90 making a grand total of £500!! The generosity of our parishes is amazing at a time when everyone is feeling the pinch. What a tribute to our lovely friend. Thank you all.

A THANK YOU:

A big thankyou to all of those who worked so hard to make the "Oldies Do" last Saturday such a success. And also, to the Upton Community Choir for providing the entertainment.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

ST COLUMBA'S - There will be a collection at St. Columba's after both Masses this week end 16th/17th December for flowers to decorate the Church for the Christmas celebration. Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity

ST THERESA'S - 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.

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 2nd 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 22nd December at 10.00 am, to be followed by a burial at Baunoge, Letterfrack, County Galway, Ireland on Friday, 12th January. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired to, Winchester Hospice Fundraising Charity can be made at www.steelsfunerals.co.uk.

HIGHLIGHT FROM THE HIGH:

Thank you very much for all the books donated to the school for the Christmas Fair. Please join us on Tuesday 19th December from 4pm in the CHS Hall; there are over 20 stalls for you to visit plus Santa's Grotto. Carol Service at 6:30pm in the Lyceum (6th Form building). Limited free tickets on ParentPay

CAROL SERVICE - 6.30P.M. at ST THERESA'S Friday 22 December:

Thank you all the people who are "hosting" our knitted Mary, Joseph and the donkey on their travels around Chester. They will arrive at St Theresa's in time for the Carol Service when they will be carried up the aisle by children from the parish. The service will last approx half an hour and will be followed by refreshments in St Theresa's Centre. All are most welcome.

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 18th 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.

Sunday 24th Dec – Harry Sweeney, harrysweeney45@gmail.com
01244 327462

Christmas Day 25th Dec – Amy O'Donnell,
amyod@hotmail.com 07854 290897

New Year 31st Dec – Eileen Irwin, st.theresas@btinternet.com
01244 371660

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

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 to arrange booking.

NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER:

10th December edition will be compiled by Harry Sweeney
Phone:01244 327462 or Email: rebecca_vghn@yahoo.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 MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2023**

Website: 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.

Thought for the week: Find out where joy resides and give it a voice far beyond singing. For to miss the joy is to miss all. Robert Lewis Stevenson

We're all in n this together: This weekend sees our third candle being lit on our Advent wreath. The pink candle of Joy. Pink is the liturgical colour for joy and love in Christ. Pink vestments are only ever used twice in the church's year, in the third week of Advent and the fourth Sunday of Lent. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, so called as it is the Latin word meaning rejoice. It reminds us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. How will you find joy this week? How will you be that light in the darkness? Have a lovely week.

ANGELS, SHEEP, DONKEYS, KINGS, ACTORS AND SHEPHERDS NEEDED!:

The children's liturgy invites children of all ages to come and take part in St Columba's Christmas Eve celebration Mass at 4.30 pm. For further information please contact Gillian Blatch at stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com and mark it for the attention of Gillian Children's liturgy.

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 20th 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

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.