



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)

The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph		
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT		
30 th MARCH 2025		
Saturday 29th March Clocks go forward one hour		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Community Mass
	5.00p.m.	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	6.30p.m.	Michael Owens RIP
Sunday 30th March		
St Theresa's	9.30a.m.	Charles Woods RIP
St Columba's	11.00a.m.	Veronica Comerford RIP
	2.00p.m.	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite
Monday 31st March		
St Theresa's		Altar Servers Ints
St Columba's	10.00a.m.	Stations of the Cross
	10.30a.m.	Private Intention(A&LP)
	12.00pm	Michael Craven Requiem Mass
Tuesday 1st April		
St Theresa's	10.00a.m.	Mae Dunne's -108 th Birthday
St Columba's		Parishioners' Intentions
Wednesday 2nd April		
St Theresa's		George Rogers RIP
St Columba's	9.30a.m.	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15a.m.	Novena Prayers
	10.30a.m.	Mary Ibel-102 nd Birthday
Thursday 3rd April		
St Theresa's		Tony & Robin Walsh
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions
Friday 4th April		
St Theresa's	9.30a.m.	Stations of the Cross
	10.00a.m.	Nan & Martin Behan RIP
St Columba's		The Parish
Saturday 5th April		
St Theresa's	9.30a.m.	
	5.00p.m.	Joe Blundell RIP
St Columba's	6.30p.m.	Patricia Feenan
Sunday 6th April		
St Theresa's	9.30a.m.	Parishioners' Ints
St Columba's	11.00a.m.	John Timpson RIP
	2.00p.m.	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers Michael Craven and Eileen Harland. The Requiem Mass for Michael Craven will be held at

St Columba's on 31st March at 12 p.m. Eileen's Requiem Mass will be held at St Columba's on 7th April at 1.30pm.

ANNIVERSARIES

Charles Woods, Sarah Ann Gordyk, Patrick Gerard McCullagh, Sandra Mary Erskine, John (Jack) George Cross, David Carty, Harry Forshaw.

POPE'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTIONS

For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

CONFESSIONS

There will be Confessions after each weekday Mass until 11.30a.m.

St Columba's: From 6p.m. before the 6.30p.m. Saturday evening Mass.

St Theresa's: From 4.30p.m. before 5p.m. Saturday evening Mass.

WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS

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

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS:

Mass will be streamed at St Theresa's on Sunday 30th March at 9.30a.m. Cover is needed at both churches for occasions when Tim is unavailable. The only requirement is you need to have an Iphone. If you would be willing to help with this please contact one of the church offices. Thank you.

www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa

PARISH OFFERTORY:

Loose Plate: £438.46; Planned Giving £250.00; Average weekly SO £555.00. Candles: £20.73.

SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS (SMA) APPEAL 29/30 March 2025:

This weekend we welcome Fr Henry Somah of the SMA who will give an appeal at all Masses on 29th and 30th March.

CHURCH NEWS

Even from his hospital bed, Pope Francis is planning the next three years in the life of the Church. Following the work of the Synod, His Holiness has issued directives that every Diocese, Parish and individual Catholic listen to the Gospel and put into action the reform that is needed in the Church. He urges "all members of the people of God to become "active subjects" in the life of the Church" as it strives to become an organisation where each person has a voice and each community becomes a listening community, praying and discerning the will of the Holy Spirit. Watch for more of this as it becomes available.

Communications Group

LITTLE CHOIR

The little choir will practise in the Iona Chapel, Tuesday 1st April at 18:45. (use the Church back door) .

All children from year 3 and above are welcome to join.

We Need YOU! Ever wanted to help with the parish newsletter? Now's your chance! We're looking for volunteer editors to join the team. Why volunteer?

- More hands = Less work for everyone!
- Get the inside scoop on all the parish news.
- No editing experience needed, just a willingness to pitch in!

Sign up today and help us make the newsletter shine! Contact Anne on Chester 340243.

Thought for the week- "Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak." St Anthony of Padua

CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection- a reminder - be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. You can donate using a CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

PRAYING TOGETHER

- Pray for the residents of Broadway West, Totland Grove, Derwent Road, Willow Drive, Naomi Close, Dentith Drive & Egerton Road.
- For the zoo and all who work there.
- For a deeper awareness of our environment.

ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA:

The coffee rota is on the noticeboard in St Columba's Hall. Just write your name, charity and phone number on the calendar. But if you can't access the hall, leave a message on Margaret Curtis's answerphone on 01244 318424 with your name and date(s) and she will add you to the rota.

30th Mar – Sue McCarthy -SVP

6th April – volunteers please

13th April – volunteers please

GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS, ST COLUMBA'S

Young parishioners are invited to read and/or hold up pictures at the at 11a.m. on Good Friday morning. There are 14 stations, so at least 14 volunteers would be nice. Please see Gillian Blatch, or Denise Lusk after Mass to volunteer, or email Gillian (gh.settle@gmail.com), ideally before Tuesday 1st April, to allow for time to give out readings and have a practice.

LENT & EASTER SERVICE TIMES

Copies of this year's programme are available at the back of church. Please take one home with you.

ADORATION

On Sunday 6th April, as we continue our journey through the Season of Lent, we invite you back into St Columba's church at 12.30pm (following 11am Mass and tea and coffee) for a short period of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome and we would love for the children of the parish, especially those who are preparing to make their First Holy Communion, to be part of this time of prayer."

BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY

Hi all, we are part of the Brazilian community in Chester and would like to invite you to pray the rosary with us. We meet on line on Thursdays at 20:00. The rosary is prayed in Portuguese, so if you'd like to join us you are more than welcome. Please

send us an email and we can send you the link for the meeting. Luciana (email: lucianaalsina@yahoo.com)

MOTHERING SUNDAY

A Happy Mothers' Day to all our mothers. There are copies of a poem available if you wish to take one.

FRIENDSHIP THURSDAY: April 3rd

Our next meeting is on April 3rd from 2-4 pm (note new time). For part of the time, we will have a speaker from "**Woodwork to Wellness**", an organisation based in Saltney that uses practical activities to encourage learning new skills, friendship and well-being in men and women. Graham Stephens, the founder of the organisation will give an interactive presentation, including his work with ex-servicemen, youngsters in Manchester gangs and ordinary men and women who look for company and activity. It promises to be a fascinating afternoon. We look forward to seeing you.

EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION

There will be a collection after all Masses at St. Columba's on the 29th/30th March to cover the cost of the Easter flowers. For St Theresa's please put your donation in an envelope marked FLOWERS and leave in the offertory basket. You have always been very generous in the past. Thank you

FISH & CHIP BABIES KNITTED CLOTHING PROJECT:

So that the knitted garments can be shipped to Africa efficiently, there is a growing need for strong cardboard boxes. If you have any 15"x15"x15" (or there abouts) boxes, can you please leave them in the rear porch at St Columba's. Thank you.

WAY OF THE CROSS THIS WEEKEND

Through **Churches Together in Upton**, we work with our fellow Christians towards understanding and respect for our differences and sharing those things that we can.

Please come and join us for a Lenten Way of the Cross at 4.30pm on Sunday March 30th at St Columba's. Let us show our shared belief in the Crucified and Risen Christ as we travel "**With Christ to Calvary**" and make this a special Lenten prayer time. It will last about 30 minutes and refreshments will follow.

JUBILEE PRAYER

There are copies of the Jubilee prayer available for you take a copy

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH & HALL BOOKINGS

To arrange meetings etc. in either the Church, Newman Room or the Iona Chapel, please book through Magdalena Bukowska,

St. Columba's Church Office

Phone: 01244 624019

Email: stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

Office hours Monday to Friday 9a.m. to 2p.m.

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 Magdalena Bukowska on 01244 624019 for enquires within the office hours stated above or email columbashallbookings@gmail.com to arrange booking.

NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 30th March edition will be compiled by

MurielGreen Phone: 01244 383836

Or email: st.theresas@btinternet.com

Please include a phone number in case of queries, and please ensure that notices *are also emailed* to Fr William

Or phoned to the compiler by 9.00 a.m. on

WEDNESDAY 2nd April 2025

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.

The Catholic High School is taking part in this challenging event, with walks organised in various ways, including a treadmill in school. They aim to raise £800 – thank you in advance for your generosity: <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/chsc>

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2025/2026

The planned giving envelopes for the next financial year are now available at the back of the church.

You will notice that your number has been changed ie. 101 to 1 etc. You need not worry about this and please use the envelopes in the normal way.

An error has occurred in the production of the envelopes. There are also a number of blank boxes of envelopes and should you wish to use one please do. However if you do I would

be grateful if you could contact me on 07790 758008 or email at k1bfb@hotmail.com to enable me to enter your details onto the planned giving system.

Thank you: Kevin Keegan

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality: There will be an informal meeting on Wed 9 April at 7pm, in St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA to reflect on the role and purpose of the Hospitality, with a view to developing a more unified vision. All members are welcome. Please email secretary @teamshrewsbury.co.uk if you would like to attend.

Lourdes by Jumbulance

Wirral and Chester Across Groups are again travelling to Lourdes by Jumbulance in 2025. The dates are Thu 15th to Sat 14th May and Thu 14th to Sat 23rd August. The Jumbulance is literally a Jumbo-Ambulance, with seven beds on board, an accessible toilet and kitchen. The journey overland takes about 21 hours. There are vacancies for a Doctor (in May), a nurse on each Group and helpers. There are vacancies for sick and disabled pilgrims. In the past we have taken people with MND, MS, COPD, various cancers, heart disease, etc and we have the facilities to care on the Jumbulance and in the Hotel.

The cost is £1,360 which *includes Travel Insurance*. Nurses and those under 25 in FTE are asked to pay £660. For further information, please contact Tony Murphy on 07881-656-974 or email tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk or visit

[You searched for AJ - Across Charity | Take a journey, make a difference](#)

ST COLUMBA'S RED MISSION BOX HOLDERS:

There will be three Red Mission boxes collections during the year: March, July and November. To have your box emptied, please leave it in the sacristy before the end of March, then pick up your empty, relabeled box from the rear porch.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

If you are NEW TO THE PARISH, please complete a Parish Registration Form and send (or bring) it to either parish office to let us know that you are here and enable us to welcome you. Forms can be found in the front porches of both churches and on the website www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk under the I'm New tab. Thank you.

FIRST AIDER:

Are there any trained First Aiders out there?

The Pastoral Council would like to have a trained First Aider on hand for occasional parish events. Perhaps you have already received training for work? We would love to hear from you if you can volunteer to help out on a rota basis.

Please contact either of the church offices with your details and we will be in touch. Thank you.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR

CAFOD invites Catholics to join their Big Lent Walk as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year, walking over 200km over 40 days during Lent. <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

PDP

Parish Development Plan 2022-2025. "You said. We did"

In 2022 the Pastoral Council led a whole-parish consultation on developments in the church and in our parish community.

Several themes emerged about inclusivity, children and families, social action, faith outreach and improving communications - with our schools, our parishioners and the wider community.

Everyone's views were carefully considered and consolidated into our Parish Development Plan in June 2022. The Pastoral Council reviewed progress in November 2024 and thanks to the energy and commitment of many people we are able to highlight the following achievements:

- Children's Liturgy re-established
 - Youth Group established
 - Young people's music group established
 - Active participation in Churches Together
 - Increased support to SVP, Foodbank and home visiting
 - Parish newcomers team established
 - Major overhaul to parish website
 - Full programme of parish social activities – cream teas, BBQs, coach trips, Autumn fair, Christmas lunches and socials
- And more!

For more details of these and priorities for 2025 please see our parish website:

<https://sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk>

Choose the Our Parish tab, click on Parish Development Plan

Why not find out how you can participate? Contact any member of the Pastoral Council by emailing either of the church offices:

stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

OR st.theresas@btinternet.com

Pauline Rourke and Ann McCarthy, Co-Chairs, Pastoral Council.