



# The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa

Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp

[pp@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](mailto:pp@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Peter Otuonkpaikhian

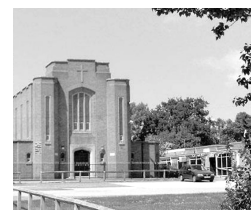
[app@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](mailto:app@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)

Deacon:

Rev Lawrence Hordley Mobile 07960 517463

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

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025



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

01244 624019

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

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)

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows		
<b>EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <b>14<sup>TH</sup> September 2025</b>		
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>		
St Theresa's	5.00p.m.	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	6.30p.m.	Rosemary McRoberts Anniv.
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Day of Special Prayer for Education</b>		
St Theresa's	9.30a.m.	Joan Woods RIP
St Columba's	11.00a.m.	Tony Walsh RIP
	2.00p.m.	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September – Our Lady of Sorrows. Mem.</b>		
St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St Columba's	10.30a.m.	Mary Ible RIP
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Ss Cornelius, P, M &amp; Cyprian, B, Mem.</b>		
St Theresa's		Private Intention
St Columba's		Brian Hemsworth RIP
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September</b>		
St Theresa's		Special Intention
St Columba's	9.30a.m.	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15a.m.	Novena Prayers
	10.30a.m.	Tony Walsh RIP (Wednesday Attenders)
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>		
St Theresa's		Eileen Mapp's Intention
St Columba's	<b>7.00p.m.</b>	<b>Jubilee Mass</b>
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
St Theresa's	10.00a.m.	Joan Woods RIP
St Columba's		The Parish
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
St Theresa's	5.00p.m.	Winifred McGlown RIP
St Columba's	6.30p.m.	Cristiano Alesina da Silva RIP
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time. Evangelii Gaudium</b>		
St Theresa's	9.30a.m.	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	11.00a.m.	Janet Wells RIP
	2.00p.m.	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

The Children's Liturgy normally happens at the 11a.m. at St Columba's on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month. For further details, see the parish website under the Family tab.

## ANNIVERSARIES:

Kenneth Kilcoyne, Jim Mason.

## POPE'S SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS:

### FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL OF CREATION

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 a.m.

Cover is needed at St Columba's for occasions when Tim is unavailable. (St Theresa's have a volunteer) 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](http://www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishofstcolumbaandsttheresa)

## PRAYING TOGETHER:

- Pray for the residents of St Christopher's Close. Dale Drive, Heath Road, Sumner Road, Fisher Road, Stamford Road, and Church Way.
- For the Treasurers, Finance Organisers and the Gift Aid Recorders.
- For those who are responsible for the financial affairs of our Churches.

## PARISH OFFERTORY:

Loose Plate: £501.64; Planned Giving: £277.69; Average weekly SO £718.15; Candles £45.53.

## ST THERESA'S FEAST DAY FLOWERS:

If you would like to contribute towards the flowers for St Theresa's Feast Day (1<sup>st</sup> October) please put your donation in an envelope marked "St Theresa's Flowers" and place it in the offertory basket. Many thanks.

## 14<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL:

Light a candle each evening at 6pm, or any time convenient for you, and pray for an end to the war and justice for all in the Holy Land.

### ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA:

The coffee rota is on the noticeboard in St Columba's all. 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.

14 <sup>th</sup> September	Sue McCarthy, SVP
21 <sup>st</sup> September	volunteers please
28 <sup>th</sup> September	volunteers please

### YOUTH GROUP:

Our next Youth Group meeting is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm until 8.30pm at St Columba's. Young people in school Year 5 or above are very welcome to join us for faith, fun, friendship...and biscuits! If you need a lift, or more information, please call Denise Lusk ([01244 379742](tel:01244379742)), Richard Curtis ([+44 7787 782255](tel:+447787782255)) or Ann McCarthy ([+44 7751 970388](tel:+447751970388))

### THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENING - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 6-8pm

This is a great opportunity for prospective students and their parents to come and see the school. Interactive activities, school tour, meet the teachers! All welcome, no booking required. For more information visit:

[www.christofidelis.org.uk](http://www.christofidelis.org.uk) email: [welcometo@christofidelis.org.uk](mailto:welcometo@christofidelis.org.uk).

### YEAR OF THE JUBILEE 2025 MASS:

Pope Francis gave this year's Jubilee the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope' and invited Catholics everywhere to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". A special Mass to celebrate our faith and renew our hope for the future is to be held in St Columba's church on Thursday 18th September at 7p.m. followed by refreshments in the hall. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

In the words of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster "May our prayer in this Jubilee Year be robust and heartfelt: that God will guide our poor efforts here, enabling us to contribute to the harmony of the world and all its people".

### FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION CLASSES:

These classes are for children who come to either St Columba's or St Theresa's churches but do not attend one of the RC Primary Schools. They are held in the Newman Room at St Columba's on Wednesday evenings in term time from 5pm to 6pm. The classes will begin on Wednesday 24th Sept. If you have a child in Year 3 or above who would like to enrol to join these classes to prepare for First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion this school year, or if you would like any further information, please contact Pauline Payne by email: [pauline.payne4@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline.payne4@btinternet.com)

### DIOCESAN JUBILEE EVENTS:

**Jubilee for Catechists** with Bishop Mark Davies, the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and Natalie Orefice, Diocesan Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis. On Saturday 15th November at St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton St, Stockport SK1 1EJ. Book a free place here: <https://bit.ly/Jubilee-for-Catechists>

### FAITH EXPLORATION AND SHARING

For any parishioner not yet in full communion with the Church but interested in exploring a way to that, beginning in September the parish will be running the Sycamore course explaining the Catholic faith. If you

are interested in joining the group, please contact Deacon Lawrence for more details. If you know someone you think might be interested, why not offer some words of encouragement.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways."—The 14th Dalai Lama, Tibet, born 1935

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF ST COLUMBA'S RECRUITMENT:

If you like singing, learning something new, finding new friends, and using your talent to praise the Lord, you can join the little choir of St Columba. The Little Choir is looking for young children from year 3 and above. You do not need to know the music or be able to sing. We will help you to learn to sing and be a member of a choir. We also support young guitarists and percussionists to play for the choir and the Mass service.

We practise on Tuesday at 6.45p.m. for one hour (starting on the 16th of September) and we play for the community every second Sunday of the month (school term only). Mass and practice are in St Columba's Church (entrance at the back door).

Participation is free. If you or your parents/guardians want any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Giovanna or the director of the choir Mark, at the end of 11.00a.m.

### INSTRUMENT REQUEST FOR ST COLUMBA'S LITTLE CHOIR:

The Little Choir would like to develop the precision session. If you have any snare drum, bongo drum, djembe drum, cajon drum, or generic drum that you do not use and would like to donate to the choir, please contact Giovanna and/or Mark after the 11:00 mass on the left of the altar. Thanks for your help.

### 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](mailto:stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com)

Office hours Monday to Thursday 9a.m. to 2.00p.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](mailto:columbashallbookings@gmail.com) to arrange booking.

### NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER:

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September edition will be compiled by

Eileen Irwin Phone: 01244 371660

Or email: [st.theresas@btinternet.com](mailto:st.theresas@btinternet.com)

by 9.00 a.m. on

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Please include a phone number in case of queries, and please ensure that notices are also emailed to Fr William at [st.theresas@btinternet.com](mailto:st.theresas@btinternet.com).

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.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

### **QUIZ**

This popular quiz organised by CTU will be on Friday October 10th in our Church Hall at 7.00 p.m. Teams of no more than eight. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Table nibbles will be provided and there will be a raffle. Profits in aid of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

### **BIBLE FESTIVAL OPEN AFTERNOON**

Throughout October, a Bible Festival is taking place throughout churches in Chester. We have been invited to take part and are putting on an Open Afternoon from on Saturday 18th October 1-4 pm, entitled Catholics and the Bible. More details next week but keep this date free, especially readers and newcomers at church as we would like to involve some of you in this project. Contact Lyn Coyle for further information [marilyn.coyle44@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.coyle44@gmail.com)

### **FOOD BANK DONATIONS – MORE NEEDED:**

Donated food is taken to the West Cheshire Foodbank at Ellesmere Port every fortnight. The warehouse is usually fairly full but recently the crates have been half empty. The volunteers confirmed that they have had to buy in supplies out of their limited resources. The donation receipt book shows our parish donation weighing 20.6 kgs but another entry showed that 403kgs of food had to be purchased at Costco. If you can, please give as generously as possible, especially UHT milk, Long-life juice, curry sauce, tinned spaghetti, and chocolate. A look at the Foodbank website ([westcheshirefoodbank.org.uk](http://westcheshirefoodbank.org.uk)) indicates where there is a need for particular items. Thank you so much. Your generosity makes all the difference.

### **LOOKING FOR OLD LAPTOPS:**

Do you have an old laptop that you no longer use? They are much in need for asylum seekers and refugees who cannot afford to buy one. City of Sanctuary is a charity that aims to support them and raise awareness of their difficulties while waiting for a decision. The charity has an IT expert who will ensure that each laptop donated is entirely free of personal information before it is passed on. The laptops are highly beneficial for English language and training courses necessary to equip sanctuary seekers (asylum seekers and refugees) for life and work in the UK. Any help you can give is immensely valuable. FFI and to donate, contact Lyn Coyle [marilyn.coyle44@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.coyle44@gmail.com). Please include a telephone number.

### **MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY RETREAT DAY:**

Calling all those interested in supporting the vocation of marriage and family to join Jane Deegan Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation for a Retreat Day to find out more about this important work and the various different ways that help is needed. There will also be presentations from representatives of some of the apostolates already working in the diocese in support of marriage and family.

**When: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025** 9.30a.m.- 4.00p.m.

**Where:** Parish Room Shrewsbury Cathedral - Entrance Address: Town Walls Shrewsbury SY1 1UE (Above the Cafe). Parking is limited but public car parks are available nearby.

**To Register and for More Information please contact:** Monika at

[monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Mobile : 07549226794 or Jane at [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Mobile: 07517 906435

### **PARISH YOUTUBE CHANNEL:**

The Pastoral Council would like to offer Mass live streamed on our YouTube channel. To do this, at no cost to us, we need a minimum of 50 subscribers. We would be very grateful if parishioners could subscribe to the channel which can be found on YouTube as: **St Columba and Theresa RC Church Chester**. Even if you are unlikely to use the service, please do subscribe to benefit others.

### **PARISH WEBSITE:**

If anyone has an item that they would like to have on the website, please contact Lyn Coyle, who is the parish liaison with the website manager. These items must be about parish-based events or information. [marilyn.coyle44@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.coyle44@gmail.com)

### **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](http://www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk) under the "I'm New"

### **ST. WERBURGH'S 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:**

This will be celebrated in December this year. Details of events in the coming week are on the notice board in both churches.

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### **MARRIAGE HELP:**

Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> October. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 0788 7296983

### **SUNSET CAFÉ PROJECT:**

Chester Townhouse, the Hospitality Hero and Soul Kitchen Chester have launched the Sunset Cafe inside the Chester Townhouse Hotel, Lower Bridge Street from 11a.m. to 3p.m. every Friday until the end of September. This is a live training cafe aiming to educate, train and support individuals stepping back into employment. We would be delighted if any parishioners or visitors in town on a Friday were able to visit the cafe to support this project.