



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp

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Deacon:

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Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

St Columba's

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St Theresa's

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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 December is dedicated to The Immaculate Conception THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 25th December 2025		
Wednesday 24 December – CHRISTMAS EVE		
St Theresa's	4.30pm	Carols
	5.00pm	Vigil Mass Henry Lloyd RIP
St Columba's	4.30pm	Children's Nativity Mass
	7.00pm	Vigil Mass Kevin, Francis & Martin Connolly
	10.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Vigil Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite
Thursday 25 Dec – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Christmas Day Mass
St Columba's	11.00am	Christmas Day Mass Parishioners' Intentions
Friday 26 December – St Stephen, M. Feast		
St Theresa's	10.00am	Paul Murphy RIP
St Columba's		The Parish
Saturday 27 December		
St Theresa's	5.00pm	John James Tobin RIP 1 st Anniversary
St Columba's	6.30pm	Lorraine Probert RIP
Sunday 28 December – The Holy Family. Feast		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Michael Dunne RIP
St Columba's	11.00am	Parishioners' Intentions
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - A leaflet containing all Mass times is available in the porches of each church. It is also on the website under *Our Parish > Mass times*.

CONFESSIONS - After each weekday Mass until 11.30am. Saturdays: St Columba's 6.00 - 6.25pm
St Theresa's 4.30 - 4.55pm

WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS - Please contact one of the Parish Offices to make your arrangements.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for December – for Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Please remember in your prayers Michael Hayden, who died recently, and also his family and friends.

ANNIVERSARIES – Muriel Halligan, Michael Gerrard Dunne.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - The Children's Liturgy normally happens at the 11am service at St Columba's on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. See the parish website under the Family tab.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS - The offertory collection at the Christmas Masses is for the parish. Anyone wishing to give to either Fr William or Fr Peter personally should put their offering in an envelope marked "personal" with their name on and put in the Offertory basket. Thank you.

CLERGY EDUCATION & TRAINING FUND

Many thanks for the amount of £190.39 which was collected recently for this.

PRAYERS – please pray for

- all residents of Blacon, Chester and Upton — for our churches, parishioners and wider communities.
- We remember especially those who cannot be with us this Christmas time, those who feel lonely, and all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit.
- We hold in our hearts those who are in hospital or receiving care, asking that they may know comfort, strength and hope.
- May God's peace surround each one of us.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach". Charles Dickens

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS -As we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth, we wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. May the light and peace of the newborn Saviour fill your hearts and homes with hope, love, and gratitude. We also pray that the coming New Year brings you every blessing, good health, and a deepening of faith. With our prayers and best wishes, Fr William, Fr Peter and Deacon Lawrence

CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE - A time to remember those who will not be with us this year. There will be a tree and cards on side Altar at St. Columba's (near the back door) to write your memories and hang on the tree. The memory is the important thing, but if anyone wishes to make a donation, there will be a basket with donations going to the Parish Third World Group.

UPTON CHURCHES CRIB - The CTU Crib has been erected in the rear porch at St Columba's together with, for the first time, its backdrop.

HEATING AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH - Most of the heaters have now been fixed. A friendly reminder, however: please do not turn off any radiators or interfere with the heating system in any way. Thank you.

ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA - We would like to thank all who volunteered their time to help with tea and coffee after the 11:00am Mass.

28th Dec volunteers please

4th Jan volunteers please

11th Jan volunteers please

ALTAR SERVERS - we need you! An appeal for altar servers at both St Columba's and St Theresa's churches please. At the moment, we have no active altar servers at St Theresa's. If you or your children are interested in altar serving at either church, please contact Richard Curtis (07787782255 / rich.curtis89@yahoo.co.uk). Training can be flexible around your availability, often focusing in 15-30 minutes sessions after Mass for convenience.

FRIENDSHIP THURSDAY

We had a very enjoyable Christmas Afternoon, and thanks are owed to our helpers and to Upton Community Choir who sang to (and with) us. It was a shame that many of our usual attendees were unable to come and I hope that they have recovered from any illnesses and will be back on January 8th, 2026.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS & VOLUNTEERS CHRISTMAS PARTY - Thanks to those who went along to this - I'm sure you enjoyed it. A special thanks to those who organised the event and who helped in any way.

PRO-LIFE UPDATE - 2025 has been one of the most challenging and busiest years ever for the pro-life movement in the UK, with the biggest battles on abortion and assisted suicide in over 50 years. Thanks to the support of our parish, there has been a strong, coordinated response in Parliament, in the media and among the wider public. The **2025 Right To Life UK Year in Review** sets out some of the key areas in which significant progress has been made this year. Please visit <http://righttolife.org.uk/2025> to read the Year in Review to find out more about what we have achieved together for life this year.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS - Urgently Needed - The Food Bank is asking for tinned meat, fish, veg, fruit, tomatoes, spaghetti, puddings, curry sauce, Smash, pasta & sauce, UHT/powdered milk, long-life juice, custard, jams, spreads, and coffee. See westcheshirefoodbank.org.uk for up-to-date needs. Thank you for your support!

STAY SAFE FROM SCAMS - Scammers may know your details, don't assume they're genuine. Always think twice. Never share your PIN or passwords. Ignore emails or calls about computer viruses. Delete suspicious emails and mark them as spam. Be safe. If unsure, contact companies using official numbers. **Dial 159** to safely reach your bank. Report scams to **Action Fraud**: 0300 123 2040 or online. Free guide and tips: [**Age UK Scam Advice**](#) the Booklet is available at the back of both churches - please return after reading.

****CHRISTMAS QUIZ****

- 1 What gifts did the Wise Men bring to Jesus?
- 2 What did the angel say to the shepherds first?
A. "Glory to God in the highest!" B. "Do not be afraid."
C. "The Saviour is born." D. "Peace be with you."
3. Who brought the news to Mary that she would have a baby?
A. Michael; B. Raphael; C. Gabriel; D. Uriel
4. Why don't Christmas trees knit?
- 5 Why did Santa go to music school?

PARISH WEBSITE - Items for the website must be about parish-based events and should be sent to Lyn Coyle, who is the parish liaison with the website manager: marilyn.coyle44@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES

St Columba's office will be closed from Tue 23 Dec & will re-open on Fri 2 Jan. Carol Galvin will be in the office for emergencies from 9am - 12noon during this time.

St Theresa's office will be closed from 24 Dec until Fri 2 Jan. The office answer machine is available for messages to be left.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH & HALL BOOKINGS

To book the **Church, Newman Room** or **Iona Chapel**, contact **Magdalena Bukowska** at the Church Office 01244 624019, email stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

Office hours Mon-Fri 9a.m. to 2.00p.m.

To check **Hall availability**, visit the **Church Hall calendar** on the St Columba's website, then contact Magdalena during office hours or email: columbashallbookings@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER Deadlines:

Due to the printers' holiday closures over Christmas and New Year the newsletters covering Sunday 21 Dec through to 4 January have now been printed.

If you have an urgent item that needs to be announced over Christmas or New Year, please ring St Theresa's number with the details 01244 371660. Thank you.

****Quiz Answers****

- 1 Gold, frankincense and myrrh
The gifts of the Wise Men carried deep meaning. Gold recognised Jesus as King, frankincense honoured Him as God, and myrrh pointed to His future sacrifice.
- 2 B "Do not be afraid."
- 3 C. Gabriel
- 4 Because they always drop their needles!
- 5 So he could improve his "wrapping" skills!