



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp

pp@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Peter Otuonkpaikhian

app@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

Deacon:

Rev Lawrence Hordley Mobile 07960 517463

Website: www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

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 December is dedicated to
The Immaculate Conception

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7TH December 2025

Saturday 6th December

St Theresa's	5.00p.m.	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	6.30p.m.	Thomas Smith RIP

Sunday 7th December – Second Sunday of Advent

St Theresa's	9.30a.m.	Eddie Mapp RIP
St Columba's	11.00a.m.	Milton, Luciana & Catarina
	2.00p.m.	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

Monday 8th December – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Feast

St Theresa's		Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	10.30a.m.	Brian Haslam & Wife Catherine

Tuesday 9th December

St Theresa's		Stephen Dale RIP
St Columba's		Parishioners' Intentions

Wednesday 10th December

St Theresa's		Milton, Luciana, Catarina
St Columba's	9.30a.m.	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15a.m.	Novena Prayers
	10.30a.m.	Roy Burns

Thursday 11th December

St Theresa's	11.30a.m.	Requiem Mass for Janie Casey
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions

Friday 12th December

St Theresa's	10.00a.m.	Peter Lloyd RIP
St Columba's		The Parish

Saturday 13th December

St Theresa's	5.00p.m.	Maureen & Michael Cheston RIP
St Columba's	6.30p.m.	John Black Birthday Anniversary

Sunday 14th December – Third Sunday of Advent

St Theresa's	9.30a.m.	Collette Smith's Intentions
St Columba's	11.00a.m.	Ian & Joan Bullough RIP
	2.00p.m.	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Monday 8th December. Mass at 10.30am at St Columba's: all welcome!

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 11.30a.m. At the weekend: St Columba's: from 6.00-6.25p.m. on Saturday. St Theresa's: from 4.30-4.55p.m. on Saturday.

WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS AND 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, Janie (Jenny) Casey who died recently, and also her family and friends. Her Requiem Mass is at St Theresa's on Thursday 11th December at 11.30am.

ANNIVERSARIES - Peter Anthony Burton, Christian Mapp, Mary Taylor, Edwin Albert (Eddie) Mapp, Colagera Anna (Lina) Safina, Terence Smith, Margaret Hocking, Mary Rhoden, Barbara Cross, Christina (Chrissie) Harrison, Irene Patricia Williams, Fr Vincent O'Toole.

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

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS - Mass will be streamed at St Theresa's on Sunday 7th December at 9.30a.m.

LARGE PRINT NEWSLETTER - A limited number of large print newsletters are now available at the back of both our Churches.

PARISH OFFERTORY - Loose Plate: £508.36; Planned Giving: £278.90; Average weekly SO £718.15; Candles: £35.28.

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

PRAYING FOR -

- the residents of Glastonbury Avenue, Tewkesbury Close, Marlowe Avenue, Cotes Place, Bridgeman Road, Stubbs Place, & South Way.

- those who are bereaved and those who provide support.

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 parishioners who have volunteered their time to help with tea and coffee after the 11:00am Mass.

7th Dec - Sue Carr, parish

14th Dec - volunteers please

21st Dec - 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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE CIO end of year Christmas meeting in the Newman Room on Monday 8th December at 2pm. Small bites, entertainment & raffle. Feel free to bring Christmas related stories & poems.

ADVENT PRAYER GROUP continues this Tuesday, Dec 9th. Come to the Iona Chapel for 11 am to 11.30 to look at next Sunday's readings. We're friendly and informal. Further info: Lyn Coyle marilyn.coyle44@gmail.com.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS & VOLUNTEERS CHRISTMAS PARTY - This year the Christmas party for senior parishioners (50+) and parish volunteers will be held on Saturday 13th December, starting at 2 pm, in St Columba's Church Hall. As usual this will include free food and drinks.

PARISH YOUTH CLUB - the final meeting of 2025! The next youth group meeting is on Monday 15th December from 7 to 8.30pm. Please note we will start in the Newman Room - entrance at the back of Saint Columba's Church. Young parishioners from Year 5 upwards are invited to come along. ALL are welcome.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND DIARIES are now available on the Piety Stall. If there is a requirement for items not currently stocked, please contact Janet on 01244 329469, as it may be possible to order. For St Theresa's, contact Carol Ingram.

ST WERBURGH'S AND ST COLUMBA'S SCHOOL NEWS - Wednesday 17th December, 7pm, Carol Service in St Werburgh's Church.

THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR & CAROL SERVICE- Tuesday 16th December, 4pm to 6pm in the school Hall. Entry fee £1 all welcome! Santa's Grotto, stalls, amazing food and music. Please come & support this event! After the Christmas Fair, there will be a Carol Service in the Lyceum (6th Form building) at 6:30pm. Enjoy mince pies and a glass of wine at the interval before a final blast of Christmas songs and dance!

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE - There is a Community Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church, Blacon, on Monday 8th December at 6pm. All welcome.

SOUP WITH SOUL - continues at the Town House, Chester M-F 12pm-3pm. They have added to the menu for Christmas: soup, sausage roll, Christmas cracker & shortbread, house wine, beer, mince pies. Take your pick!

Creating a positive future for those experiencing homelessness and hardship.

CHRISTINGLE CAROL – 11.00 Mass St Columba's

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. (Tune: Trad, Lyricist: Unknown)

THANK YOU FROM HOPEFUL UGANDAN HEARTS -

Thank you all for your continuous support with the activities of Hopeful Ugandan Hearts, this year and previous years. Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise £1,177.44 from the Sunday Cake sales and £2,160 from the Zumbathons which we held at your hall. These funds provided the children of "Home of Peace" in Jinja and "Christ's Heart Children's Orphanage" in Kampala with food, medical care and education. Kind regards, Lina, Monica, Stephanie and Dorita (Hopeful Ugandan Hearts)

CHURCHES TOGETHER ADVENT SERVICE - Many thanks to welcomers, helpers with refreshments, Mark our musician, Fr William and those who attended the Service, held in a cosy Iona Chapel. It was very enjoyable and a good start to Advent with our fellow Christians.

COMMEMORATING MRS OATES' SERVICE AS HEADTEACHER - All are warmly invited to a celebration of Mrs Oates' dedicated service to St Werburgh's and St Columba's School on **Thursday 18th December at St Columba's Church**. A special thanksgiving service will begin at **6.30pm**, followed by a **Cheese and Wine Reception** in the church hall from **7.00–8.00pm**. Children are welcome at both events. Please complete the RSVP form to help us plan refreshments: <https://forms.office.com/e/9bNg70BFcR> Spread the word! We look forward to celebrating together!

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.

NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER:

Sunday 14th December to be compiled by

Eileen Irwin Phone: 01244 371660

Email: st.theresas@btinternet.com

Deadline: 9.00a.m. Wednesday 10th December

Please include a contact number with your notice. Also

email a copy to **Fr. William** at

st.theresas@btinternet.com.

Note: The website version may include extra items not in the printed copy, visit www.stcolumbaandtheresa.co.uk.

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!

ST COLUMBA'S RED MISSION BOX HOLDERS - Could those parishioners at St Columba's with a Mission Box, please leave it in the sacristy for Margaret to collect. You can collect your next Red Box from the back of the church, after your donation has been counted.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY - There will be midday Mass at St Mary's, Crewe on 8th December to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Refreshments will be available after Mass, everyone is welcome.

CAFOD Christmas Fun Run Saturday 27th December in Bollington - An opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors over the Christmas period, whilst also supporting communities around the world to lift themselves out of poverty. Adult, child and family entrance fees available; runners and walkers welcome. **We are also really in need of volunteers** to help out on the day. If you can spare a few hours, please contact events@cafod.org.uk for more information. Use the QR code to register or find out more info on our website: cafod.org.uk/Bollington



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.

PARISH WEBSITE - Items for 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