



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



St Columba's
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Chester, CH2 1SA
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stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSP
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Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Peter Otuonkpaikhian
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Deacon:
Rev Lawrence Hordley Mobile 07960 517463
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Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

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 January is dedicated to The Holy Name of Jesus		
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 11th JANUARY 2026		
Saturday 10 January		
St Theresa's	5.00pm	Janie Casey RIP
St Columba's	6.30pm	Bob Breen RIP
Sunday 11 January – The Baptism of the Lord. Feast		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Jessica Baker RIP
St Columba's	11.00am	Pat Kelly
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite
Monday 12 January		
St Theresa's		Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	10.30am	John Cotter RIP
Tuesday 13 January		
St Theresa's		John & Sue McCarney RIP
St Columba's		Parishioners' Intentions
Wednesday 14 January		
St Theresa's		Margaret McCarroll & Elaine Heskayne RIP
St Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	David Whitby
Thursday 15 January		
St Theresa's		Denis Parsonage RIP
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions
Friday 16 January		
St Theresa's	10.00am	Sarah Nash's Intention
St Columba's		The Parish
Saturday 17 January		
St Theresa's	5.00pm	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	6.30pm	Mary & Brian Marks RIP
Sunday 18 January – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Day of Special Prayer for World Peace		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Graham George RIP
St Columba's	11.00am	Roy Burns RIP
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro- Malabar Rite

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS - Mass will be streamed at St Theresa's on Sunday 11th January at 9.30 a.m.

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

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

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2026
- For prayer with the Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Please remember in your prayers, James (Jim) Dowd who died recently, and also his family and friends. The funeral is at St Theresa's on Thursday 22 January at 9.30 a.m. Please also remember Nuala Wynne-Jones who died this week; her funeral will be at St Columba's, details to be announced.

ANNIVERSARIES - Betty Audrey Gore, Czeslawa Klepala, Elizabeth McGovern, Robert William Hocking, Stanley Edward Taylor.

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

PARISH OFFERTORY - For the weekend of 3rd/4th January: Loose Plate: £487.96; Planned Giving: £295.31; Average weekly SO £718.15; Candles: £45.51. Dona Stations Collection in December: £293.

THANK YOU - Fr William, Fr Peter and Deacon Lawrence would like to thank everyone for their cards and gifts and to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

GOODBYE - As we wish Fr Peter a fond farewell on his return to Nigeria on 12th January, we thank him for his ministry to our parish and send him our prayers and good wishes.

RETIRING COLLECTION - There will be a retiring collection next weekend (17th/18th January) for the Priests' Retirement Fund.

CAFOD DONATIONS - Many thanks for the donations received following the Carol Service on 19th December. £100 was gratefully received and 5 gifts of "Firewood for Winter Warmth" were purchased from CAFOD's World Gifts catalogue.

PRAYERS - please pray for

- The residents of Newton Lane, Appleton Road, Handforth Road, Exeter Place, Burns Way, Masefield Drive, Aragon Green, and Brentwood Road.
- The Archive Group, Social Committees, and fundraising groups.
- The fellowship and sharing at social gatherings.

ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA - The 2026 tea and coffee rota is on the noticeboard in St Columba's Hall. We need someone to volunteer every Sunday after 11:00 Mass, so if you would like to raise money for your good cause, please put your name and details on the sheet.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows." Helen Keller

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM - Vacancies have arisen within the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team for a Programme Coordinator, Youth Mission Team Member and an Administration Assistant. Further details regarding the three posts can be found on the Diocesan Website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>

Interested parties should send their CV to Pauline McCulloch: recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org
Closing date Friday 23rd January 2026.

CONTACTLESS CARD DONATIONS AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH - I hesitate to tempt fate, but I hope I can say that the card machines at the front and back of church are now fully operational and will now allow you to register for Gift Aid if you haven't already done so. If you have not registered you will be asked if you want to do so after you make a donation. Click 'yes' and follow instructions on screen or click 'no'. If you have already registered (with the card you are using) that will be automatically recognised and you will not be asked if you wish to Gift Aid.

Pauline Rourke

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.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - This will be marked by two services:

- Churches Together Cheshire Service at Chester Cathedral, Sunday 18th January at 5 p.m.
- Churches Together Upton Service at Holy Ascension church, Thursday 22nd January at 2.30 p.m.

See the noticeboards for further details. You are warmly invited to support these two events.

BETROTHED - Shrewsbury Diocese will be running three sacramental marriage preparation courses in early 2026. Each course runs over two consecutive Saturdays from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on each day.

The three venues are:

- (1) St Clare's Church Parish Hall, Downsfield Road, Lache, Chester CH4 8HH, on 7th and 14th February
- (2) Vincent de Paul Church Westleigh Parish Hall, Groby Road, Altrincham WA14 2BQ, on 28th February and 7th March
- (3) Shrewsbury Cathedral Parish Hall, Town Walls, Shrewsbury SY1 1UE, on 21st and 28th March.

Registration is essential.

To register, contact Monika:

monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

For more information, contact Jane Deegan:

jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

PRO-LIFE UPDATE - 2025 was 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 past year.

MUSEUM OF THE MOON ARTWORK - Chester Cathedral, from Thursday 12th February to Sunday 15th March 2026. The installation is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound composition. No need to book daytime entry, but a donation is advised.

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 18th January to be compiled by Magdalena Bukowska Phone: 01244 624019 Email:stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

Deadline: 9.00a.m. Wednesday 14th January

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.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk