



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
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 January is dedicated to
The Holy Name of Jesus

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18th JANUARY 2026

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 (mc)
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

Monday 19 January

St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St Columba's	10.30am	Denis O'Donovan

Tuesday 20 January

St Theresa's		Bridget Williams RIP
St Columba's		Parishioners' Intentions

Wednesday 21 January – St Agnes, V, M. Mem.

St Theresa's		Rosa Bella & Family Intentions
St Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	Jacky & the McLelland Family

Thursday 22 January

St Theresa's	9.30am	Funeral Service for James (Jim) Dowd
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions

Friday 23 January

St Theresa's	10.00am	Anthony Keith Baker RIP
St Columba's		The Parish

Saturday 24 January

St Theresa's	5.00pm	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	6.30pm	Veronica Marks

Sunday 25 January – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Theresa's	9.30am	Ceri Poole RIP
St Columba's	11.00am	Celia McLoughlin
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

FR PETER - Fr Peter has arrived safely and would like to thank you all for your prayers and good wishes.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS - Mass will be streamed at St Columba's on Sunday 18th January at 11.00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS - 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.

PEACE SUNDAY - January 18th: Pope Leo's message - "Peace be with you all: towards an "unarmed and disarming" peace. Please pray for the work of Pax Christi and perhaps consider a donation towards their very important work - paxchristi.org.uk

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 and her loved ones. Her funeral will be at St Columba's, on 28th January at 12.30pm.

ANNIVERSARIES - Frederick (Fred) Richard Hercules, Diane Blago, Michael Booth, John Francis McNeill, Robert William Hocking, Stanley Edward Taylor, Anthony Keith Baker, Margaret Parry.

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.

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR

- The residents of Shocklach Road, Horrocks Road, Bolesworth Road, Boleyn Close, Tudor Green, Saxon Way & Palatine Close.
- The choirs and music groups.
- Uniting all who play and sing from the three churches

PARISH OFFERTORY

Christmas Time Donations:

Loose Plate: £2386.44; Planned Giving: £894.01

St Columba's Dona Stations: £293

Last Week's Collection: Loose Plate: £427.86; Planned Giving: £266; Average weekly SO £718.15; Candles: £36.58. St Columba's Dona Stations: £73.00

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

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

200 CLUB - Recent winners are:

£100 no 6 G. Templeton

£50 no. 7 M. Turnbull

£25 no 25 S. Parry

Thank you for your continued support.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - The next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th January at 7pm in St Theresa's Centre.

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 and let Margaret Curtis know on 01244 318424.

NEEDLES AND PINS ON WED 28TH JANUARY -

Advanced notice that the Needles & Pins group are meeting at 12:00 at The Wheatsheaf, 46 Heath Rd, Upton, CH2 1HX for a festive lunch and there will be no meetings in the Newman room that day. See you at the meal.

YOUTH GROUP - Our first youth group of 2026 will be this Monday, 19th January, starting 7pm in the Newman room and finishing 8.30pm in St. Columba's church hall. All young parishioners, year 5 or older are warmly invited to join our friendly group. If you are thinking about it why not come along and give it a try?

FIRST FORGIVENESS CELEBRATION - On Saturday 24th January, 24 children from St Columba's will receive the Sacrament of First Forgiveness in a special service of celebration at 10.00a.m. Please pray for the children and their families at this special time in their faith journeys.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - The best thing you have to offer the world is yourself. You don't have to copy anyone else. John Denver

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.

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

- Churches Together Cheshire Service at Chester Cathedral, this 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 25th January to be compiled by

Eileen Irwin Phone: 01244 371660

Email: st.theresas@btinternet.com

Deadline: 9.00a.m. Wednesday 21st 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