



# The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp

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Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

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Chester, CH2 1SA

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stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

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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 January is dedicated to  
The Holy Name of Jesus

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**25th JANUARY 2026**

**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. Day of Special Prayer for World Peace**

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

**Monday 26 January-SS Timothy & Titus, B**

St Theresa's		Mae Dunne's Intentions
St Columba's	10.30am	Anne Else RIP

**Tuesday 27 January**

St Theresa's		Janie Casey RIP
St Columba's		Parishioners' Intentions

**Wednesday 28 January – St Thomas Aquinas**

St Theresa's		Alison Carbert RIP
St Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	Frank Jeffes
	12.30pm	<b>Requiem Mass for Nuala Wynne-Jones</b>

**Thursday 29 January**

St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
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**Friday 30 January**

St Theresa's	10.00am	Peter Hughes RIP
St Columba's	12.30	<b>Funeral service for Catherine Earlam</b>

**Saturday 31 January - St John Bosco, P**

St Theresa's	5.00pm	Katherine Gannon RIP
St Columba's	6.30pm	Pat Black

**Sunday 1<sup>ST</sup> February – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

St Theresa's	9.30am	Kathleen Maguire RIP
St Columba's	11.00am	Daniel & Poppy Nagy on the occasion of their wedding
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

**LIVE STREAMING OF MASS** - Mass will be streamed at St Columba's on Sunday 25th January at 11.00 a.m.

## **WELCOME**

We welcome Fr John Baalaboore CSSp who will be helping out in our parish for a short while

**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.

**RECENTLY DECEASED** - Please remember in your prayers, Mary Joan Hayden, Nuala Wynne-Jones, Dorothea Carroll & Catherine Earlam who died recently, and also their families and friends. The funeral of Nuala Wynne-Jones is at St Columba's, on 28<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30pm. The funeral of Catherine Earlam is at St Columba's on 30<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30. The funeral of Dorothea Carroll is on 12<sup>th</sup> February at St Columba's at 12 noon. The funeral of Mary Joan Hayden to be arranged.

**ANNIVERSARIES** - Anthony Keith Baker, Margaret Parry, Michael Booth, John Francis McNeill, Rev. Francis Gabriel Bligh, Veronica May Joyce, Iris 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.

**FIRST FORGIVENESS CELEBRATION** - this Saturday, 24 children received the sacrament of First Forgiveness at a special service of celebration. Please pray for the children and their families at this special time in their faith journeys.

## **BAPTISM, RECEPTION AND CONFIRMATION**

Members of the parish 'RCIA' group are preparing to receive Sacraments at Easter; Adam Fitzpatrick (Baptism and Confirmation, in his home parish in Airdrie), Charlotte Jackson (Reception and Confirmation), Milton Vidotto and Daniel Nagy (Confirmation). There are several related events in the coming weeks, beginning with a time of Reflection with Bishop Mark on 7<sup>th</sup> February in St Columba's Hall. This is for Catechumens and Candidates from across the Diocese. Please watch out for further Newsletter announcements on these matters and keep all concerned in your prayers.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK** - Observe good faith and justice towards all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all. George Washington

## **PARISH OFFERTORY**

Loose Plate: 463052 Planned Giving: £298.64; Average weekly SO £718.15; Candles: £31.58 St Columba's Dona Stations: £152.00

**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

## **PRAYING TOGETHER FOR**

- The residents of Dunham Way, Chirk Close, Tintern Avenue, Cleves Close, Roman Drive, Cavalier Drive & Hadrian Drive.
- The prayer groups and ecumenical prayer groups.
- Those who have nobody to pray for them.

## **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.

**PRAY WITH THE POPE** is a new initiative for 2026 from Pope Leo. He invites the faithful to share in a common moment of quiet prayer each day with him. There is a prayer intention for each month which is printed in the newsletter, as above - The Pope's Prayer Intentions.

Pope Leo wants us to build a community of prayer throughout the Church. Next Sunday, the third Sunday in ordinary time, was designated by Pope Francis as Sunday of the Word of God. It would be a good time for us to dedicate ourselves to daily prayer that is based on the Word of God as it applies to our own lives.

To join with the Pope, copy these links into your browser and click [www.popesprayer.va](http://www.popesprayer.va) where you will find the video of Pope Leo praying. You can find the gospel of each day in the weekday missal or by typing in any of the following links and clicking on them.

- Gospel Today Catholic - Reflecting on Today's Catholic Gospel Reading
- Universalis: Readings at Mass (Universalis is an app you can download to your phone or tablet)
- Daily Mass Readings - Alive Publishing

**ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA** - The 2026 tea and coffee 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 or [marg.curtis@outlook.com](mailto:marg.curtis@outlook.com)

25th Jan - Chris & Elizabeth, Parish  
01 Feb - Nora Richardson, HCPT Wrexham  
08 Feb - volunteers please

**HERE IS AN EXPLANATION OF HCPT** -(see coffee rota St Columba's 1 Feb) The Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust is a charity that brings children with disabilities or special needs on pilgrimage to Lourdes each year. Founded on the values of friendship, dignity, and service; this Easter, HCPT Group 155 from Wrexham will be travelling with four children, on HCPT's 70th anniversary. As always, the pilgrimage is about the whole

team coming together in love with pilgrims and helpers alike. Thanks for your support.

**FRIENDSHIP THURSDAY February 4<sup>th</sup>** I hope we'll see lots of friends at this meeting from 2-4 pm in the Church Hall. We have a guest speaker, a late Christmas raffle and good conversation over coffee and biscuits. Please tell others about this. Contact Lyn for further details 07735574397

## **SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL-31<sup>st</sup>Jan/1<sup>st</sup> Feb**

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding an appeal at all Masses next weekend on 31 Jan/1 Feb. SPUC exists to restore a respect for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

## **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.

**CHESTER CATHEDRAL ORGAN RECITAL** - every Thursday 1.10pm. Each week features a different organist and repertoire of music. Organ Recitals are free with a retiring collection and no ticket is required. The suggested donation for the recital is £5

**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.

**MUSICAL EVENING - SOIRÉE!** - in aid of Chester Parkinson's UK. Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm at St Columba's Church hall. £15 pp includes fish and chip supper from the award winning Weston Grove Chippy. Bring your own alcohol! Tea, coffee, soft drinks available and a RAFFLE! Tickets from Pat Riddell 07941839161 or [patriddell31@aol.com](mailto:patriddell31@aol.com)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:columbashallbookings@gmail.com)

## **NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER:**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February to be compiled by Alison Wrigglesworth Phone: 07759 042262 Email: [a.wrigglesworth@outlook.com](mailto:a.wrigglesworth@outlook.com)

**Deadline: 9.00a.m. Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

Please include a contact number with your notice. Also email a copy to **Fr. William** at [st.theresas@btinternet.com](mailto:st.theresas@btinternet.com)

Note: The website version may include extra items not in the printed copy, visit [www.sscolombalandtheresa.co.uk](http://www.sscolombalandtheresa.co.uk)

**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](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

For more information, contact Jane Deegan:  
[jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)