



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp

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Deacon:

Rev Lawrence Hordley Mobile 07960 517463

Website: www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

St Columba's
Plas Newton Lane,
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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 February is dedicated to The Holy Family		
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 22ND FEBRUARY 2026		
Saturday 21 February		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Malankara Jacobite Syriac Community
	5.00pm	Eileen Lewis Rosenbloom & Families
St Columba's	6.30pm	Mary Jeffes
Sunday 22 February - First Sunday of Lent		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	11.00am	Richard Murphy
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite
Monday 23 February - St Polycarp, B, M. Mem.		
St Theresa's		Joan Hayden RIP
St Columba's	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
	10.30am	Gerry Galvin RIP
Tuesday 24 February		
St Theresa's		Alistair McCreary RIP
St Columba's		Adam Elwell
Wednesday 25 February		
St Theresa's		Mackie Family RIP
St Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	Special Intention (AJ)
Thursday 26 February		
St Theresa's	9.30am	School Mass Jane Walsh's Intentions
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions
Friday 27 February		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Stations of the Cross
	10.00am	Tony & Sue Evans & Family
St Columba's		The Parish
Saturday 28 February		
St Theresa's	5.00pm	Ed & Bernie McCarney & Family
St Columba's	6.30pm	Chris Duncan
Sunday 29. February - Second Sunday of Lent		
St Theresa's	9.30am	John Christoforou
St Columba's	11.00am	Josie McCann
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

POPES PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2026 - For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their

families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS - Mass will be streamed at St Theresa's on Sunday 22nd February at 9.30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS - After each weekday Mass until 11.30am. Saturdays:

St Columba's 6.00 - 6.25p.m.

St Theresa's 4.30 - 4.55p.m.

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

ANNIVERSARIES

John Stead, Jayne Lesley McElwaine, Janet Irene McMahan, Michael Craven.

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.

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR

- The residents of Rosewood Avenue, Whitby Avenue, Egerton Drive, Donne Place, Kipling Road, Wordsworth Mews and Wordsworth Square.
- Those on the brass and flower rotas and those who distribute flowers.
- Those who clean our churches and halls.

PARISH OFFERTORY

Loose Plate: £802.60; Planned Giving: £402.47; Average weekly SO £718.15.

St Columba's Dona Stations: £65. Candles: £79.75. White Flower Appeal: £339.50. Thank you for your kind generosity.

PROPOSED COFFEE AND TEA PRICE RISE

The price of teas and coffees in St Columba's Church Hall on Sundays will be £1 from 1st March. This will help volunteers raise more for their chosen charity and will encourage more groups to volunteer in the future.

RETIRING COLLECTION - 21/22 Feb

There will be a retiring collection this weekend for the Holy Family Sisters Appeal.

FR WILLIAM

Please note that Thursday is Fr William's day off so try not to arrange meetings on a Thursday that you would like Fr William to attend.

NEWSLETTER

Please send any items you would like to go in the newsletter to St Theresa's office email

(st.theresas@btinternet.com) for the attention of Fr William and a copy to the editor for the week (see box below). Thank you.

LENT GROUP

This will begin on Tuesday Feb 24th and run for 5 weeks, although you do not have to commit to coming every week. Give it a try and see how you feel. Anyone is welcome. Each week, we shall look, with some words of guidance, at a passage from the gospel of John, reading it through, praying about it for some minutes and sharing our thoughts. No-one is forced to speak. You can bring your own bible, but copies of the passage will be available. Join us at 10.30 a.m. in the Iona Chapel for 30-40 minutes maximum. Lyn 07735574397

VOTIVE CANDLES AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

Our candles are safe and environmentally friendly: they may be left to burn when the church is empty, the spent wax is recycled and last year, using these candles, helped prevent 112 trucks of plastic and aluminium cups going to landfill.

As they are more expensive, please consider a minimum donation of 50p per candle. You can donate via the Dona system, which increases your offering if you are registered for Gift Aid. Thank you.

Pauline Rourke

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 or marg.curtis@outlook.com

22 Feb – Lina Greig – Hopeful Ugandan Hearts

01 Mar – volunteers please

08 Mar – volunteers please

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – "Love is the flower you've got to let grow." John Lennon

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

There will be Second Collection for CAFOD Family Fast Day on 3rd March 2026.

The official Family Fast Day is on Friday 27th February and CAFOD invite us to live out the Gospel call to 'Love Your Neighbour'. By fasting, and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on their table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as flood-resistant floating garden or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope, donate at CAFOD.org.uk/envelope, call 030303 30 30 or use the QR code on the posters in the church porches.

SVP THEATRE NIGHT – SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

Bebington Dramatic Society will present "Shakespeare In Love" on Wednesday 4th March, 7.30p.m. at the Gladstone Theatre, Port Sunlight. All proceeds to support the SVP Holiday Home in North Wales which provides much needed holidays for many people. Tickets £12 available from Sue McCarthy, Mark Traynor or any member of the SVP

THE NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

will take place from 10th-18th March 2026 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their Society Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are at 10.00am every day of

the Novena except Sunday, when it is at 11.00am. These Masses will be available to follow on YouTube, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena

The Novena Prayer Booklet is available on request for a suggested donation of £1 per booklet to cover costs. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena prayer booklet. Please write to the Novena Director at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ, or email novenamhm@gmail.com.

THE COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM

Seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their mission for the re-evangelization of England. Any amount, large or small, is greatly appreciated and the community assure you of their prayers. More information, as well as the option to donate online, can be found at: www.maryshouseappeal.org E: office@walsinghamcommunity.org T: 01362 692574

NEEDLES & PINS - Wed 25th Feb

Everyone is invited to this friendly and welcoming needlecraft group in the Newman Room, between 2:00-4:00pm every fourth Wednesday of the month. Hope to see you.

FRIENDSHIP THURSDAY

Don't forget March 5th 2-4 pm

Guest speaker: "A Railway, its Engineers and their Houses"

More news next week!

The Catholic High School is joining the CAFOD Big Lent Walk!

The whole school will complete a circular walk in Handbridge on Friday 27th March to raise money to fight poverty in Ethiopia as they face a devastating food crisis. If you would like to sponsor the students by making an online donation, please go to our CAFOD portal or scan the QR code. Many thanks for your support. [Donate - Donation amount - JustGiving](#)



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 1st March to be compiled by Paula Bownas Phone: 01244 379794 Email: paulabownas@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline: 9.00a.m. Wednesday 24th February

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

CHURCHES OF SANCTUARY INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 24th February, 7p.m. at Chester Cathedral
Is your church already supporting or wanting to support those seeking sanctuary from war and persecution? This is a chance for members of churches of all denominations to find out more about the Churches of Sanctuary network and to hear from Chester City of Sanctuary. Kirushan Sivagnanam, Chester Cathedral of Sanctuary Artist in Residence, will also offer a viewing of his brand-new exhibition. Use the link below and the promo code 'sanctuary2026' to book.
<https://chestercathedral.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173664495>

MUSICAL EVENING – SOIRÉE!

In aid of Chester Parkinson's UK. Friday 27th March, 7p.m. 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

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.

DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES

From the 60's to NOW!! DJ Chris Appleton.
In Aid and support of "Hopeful Ugandan Hearts", on Saturday 7th March from 7p.m.-11p.m. at St Columba's Church Hall. £15 per person (includes cold food buffet) 18+ Event Alcohol licensing in place.
All proceeds help support the Charity's work.
Music • Dancing • Retro Vibes
Dance your way through the decades with hits from the 1960s right up to today!
Dress up from your favourite decade if you wish.
Pay at the door or contact Lina Greig on 07837512544 for more information.

SIX BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LENTEN SUNDAY GOSPELS

Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Lenten Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions.

Starts: **Tues 17th February 2026 at 7p.m.**

Six consecutive Tuesdays: **17 Feb | 24 Feb | 03 Mar | 10 Mar | 17 Mar | 24 Mar** (7-8:15p.m.).

Free of Charge | LIVE on YouTube.

Registration: comeandsee.org/lent26

BETROTHED – Shrewsbury Diocese will be running two 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 two venues are:

(1) Vincent de Paul Church Westleigh Parish Hall, Groby Road, Altrincham WA14 2BQ, on 28th February and 7th March

(2) 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

ST. WERBURGH'S & ST. COLUMBA'S SCHOOL

The School Mission Team (SMT) have had the idea to use the arch in our prayer garden as a prayer arch. A school member with an intention they want prayed for, can tie a ribbon around the arch. If anyone has any spare ribbon or

coloured string, could you please donate it to this project. The SMT are really excited about seeing the arch become colourful with prayer intentions! Thank you in advance.