



# The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp

pp@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk

Deacon:

Rev Lawrence Hordley Mobile 07960 517463

Website: [www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](http://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 March is dedicated to  
St Joseph

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026

### Saturday 14 March

St Theresa's	5.00pm	Tony McHugh RIP
St Columba's	6.30pm	Margery Whatmough

### Sunday 15 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent

St Theresa's	9.30am	Kazia Krawiec RIP
St Columba's	11.00am	Ron Williams RIP
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

### Monday 16 March

St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St Columba's	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
	10.30am	Aquiles Paras RIP

### Tuesday 17 March – St Patrick, B. Feast

St Theresa's		McCreary Family
	7.00pm	Reconciliation service
St Columba's		The Elwell Family

### Wednesday 18 March

St Theresa's		Worrall Family RIP
St Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	Meg Lee RIP

### Thursday 19 March – St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Solemn.

St Theresa's		Eileen Mapp's Intentions
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions

### Friday 20 March

St Theresa's	9.30am	Stations of the Cross
	10.00am	Steele Family Intentions
St Columba's		The Parish

### Saturday 21 March

St Theresa's	9.30am	Malankara Jacobite Syriac Community
	5.00pm	Muriel & Jim Halligan RIP
St Columba's	6.30pm	Patricia Duggan

### Sunday 22 March – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

St Theresa's	9.30am	Margaret Parry RIP
St Columba's	11.00am	World Peace, God's guidance and cover over our lives.
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH - FOR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE.** Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**MOTHERS' DAY** - There are copies of a Mothers' Day prayer available in St. Theresa's porch for you to take home with you.

**LIVE STREAMING OF MASS** - Mass will be streamed at St Theresa's on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30a.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** - Margaret Ellen Finnegan, John James Tully, Doreen Brenda Grainger, Jean Alice Hickman, Margaret Christine Steele.

**RECENTLY DECEASED** - Please remember in your prayers Mark Buggy, who died recently, and his family and friends. The Requiem Mass for Mark is on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 11.45am. at St Theresa's.

**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.

### PARISH OFFERTORY

Loose Plate: £472.19; Planned Giving: £310.50; Average weekly SO £718.15. St Columba's Dona Stations: £49.00. Candles: £43.75. Thank you for your kind generosity.

**HOLY PLACES COLLECTION** - Second collection the weekend of 3<sup>RD</sup> /4<sup>TH</sup> April.

### CONTACTLESS CARD DONATIONS TO CAFOD AT ST COLUMBA'S

For the next three weeks you can donate to the CAFOD appeal by tapping CAFOD on the Dona station at the rear of the church and Second Collection on the station at the front of church.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE** - There will be a Reconciliation Service at St Theresa's on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

**MASS REQUESTS** - If you would like to have a Mass said, especially on a particular day, please allow at least one month before the date when requesting mass. Requests can be made at the office or using an envelope. Thank you.

**FR WILLIAM** - Thursday is Fr William's day off so please try not to arrange meetings on a Thursday if you would like Fr William to attend.

**NEWSLETTER** – As well as sending to the editor, please send any items for the newsletter to St Theresa's office email: [st.theresas@btinternet.com](mailto:st.theresas@btinternet.com) for the attention of Fr William. Thank you.

**PRAYING TOGETHER FOR:**

- The residents of Kelvin Grove, Western Approach, Thirlmere Road, Blacon Avenue, Keats Terrace, Blacon Hall Road and Malvern Road.
- Greater compassion for those who feel marginalised in our society.
- A deeper unity between the churches

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - THE SCRUTINIES**

- Fr William will conduct the Second Scrutiny with Adam Fitzpatrick at 11 am Mass this Sunday. Please keep Adam and all concerned in your prayers, in these final weeks of his preparation for Baptism. A copy of the Scrutiny is available with Newsletters.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK** - 'What we have once enjoyed deeply we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.' — Helen Keller

**SUGGESTION BOXES** - "A Parishioner's Suggestion Box", with attached pen and paper, is now available in the entrances to each church. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas and are unable to speak to Fr William please put them in the box with a contact number for a reply.

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST** - Many thanks to those who came along to this last Sunday in the Newman Room, there was a good turnout.

**HEALING & HOPE SERVICE** - At St Werburgh's church on 21st March at 2pm. The sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick will be offered to those who wish to receive them. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served by members of the SVP at the end.

**LENT GROUP, March 17<sup>th</sup>** - Do join us in the Iona Chapel from 10.30a.m. for 30-40 minutes. We shall read and discuss the Parable of the Vine in the Gospel of John, trying to see how this applies to our lives. Anyone is welcome. Copies of the passage will be available. FFI Lyn 07735574397

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN UPTON** - The next fifth Sunday service will be at Holy Ascension on Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> at 4.30p.m. You are invited to join our friends from the other Upton churches in this short service based on "three unusual saints". An opportunity to test your knowledge of possibly obscure saints. There will be refreshments in the kemp room after the service. A poster on the notice board gives more details.

**EASTER VIGIL REHEARSAL** - There will be a rehearsal for those assisting, including altar servers, in the Easter Vigil, at St Columba's on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm.

**ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA** - See the rota on the noticeboard in St Columba's Hall. We need volunteers every Sunday after 11:00 Mass, so if you would like to raise money for your good cause, please put your details on the sheet and let Margaret Curtis know on 01244 318424 or [marg.curtis@outlook.com](mailto:marg.curtis@outlook.com)

15 Mar - volunteers please

22 Mar - Lina Greig, Hopeful Ugandan Heart

29 Mar - Elizabeth Wilson, CWL

**CHRISTIAN AID** - Lent lunch from 12 noon-1.30 pm, 9<sup>th</sup> March in Wesley Methodist Church, St John Street, and 20<sup>th</sup> March in Hoole URC, Hoole Road.

**ST COLUMBA'S RED MISSION BOX HOLDERS**

There are three Red Mission boxes collections during the year: March, July and November. To have your box emptied, please leave it in the sacristy before the end of March, then pick up your empty, relabelled box from the rear porch.

**Fish & Chip babies knitting project** - There are photos showing the unpacking of your knitted garments by the recipients in East Africa on display in the front porch of St Columba's. Thank you and keep knitting!

**DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2026** - Bishop Mark will be celebrating the Mass for Marriage on Saturday 13th June at 12 noon at Saint Columba's. Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch for invited guests in the Parish Hall. All parishioners celebrating a significant marriage anniversary can apply for an invitation from the Bishop's Office via their Parish Priest or Parish Administrator. Details required are your names, address, telephone number and which anniversary you are celebrating.

**THE NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH** - The Mill Hill Missionaries will hold their annual National Novena at St Joseph's, Maidenhead from 10th-18th March 2026. Mass times: 10.00a.m. daily, 11.00a.m. on Sunday. Services will be streamed on YouTube and [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena) Novena prayer booklets are available (donations £1). Petitions and booklet requests: [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com).

**SCHOOL NEWS** - both the Catholic High and St Werburgh's and St Columba's schools are taking part in the Big Lent Walk this year to raise money for CAFOD.

**CAFOD FAST DAY REMINDER:** Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as flood resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope and place in the collection baskets, donate online at [CAFOD.org.uk/envelope](http://CAFOD.org.uk/envelope), call 030303 30 30, use the QR code on the posters in the church porches or the Dona stations (in St Columba's only).

**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 22nd March to be compiled by

Eileen Irwin Phone: 01244 371660

Email: [st.theresas@btinternet.com](mailto:st.theresas@btinternet.com)

**Deadline: 9.00a.m. Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

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.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk](http://www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk)**

**NOTE:** The Easter newsletter deadline will be brought forward to. Tuesday 31 March 9am.

**Reflection on St Joseph: Husband of the Blessed Virgin, Guardian of Jesus, Pillar of Families** Join us for a *Reflection on St Joseph* from the Scriptures, the saints, popes and others all of which can help us understand the importance of devotion to him, especially within the vocation of marriage and for our families.

**When:** Feast of St Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin **19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Where:** **Shrewsbury Cathedral Parish Room 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm**

**Speaker:** **Jane Deegan** Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation, Lay Spirituality and Prayer

**BETROTHED** - Shrewsbury Diocese will be running a sacramental marriage preparation course on 21st and 28th March 2026. The course runs over two consecutive Saturdays from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on each day at Our Lady and St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, Upper Brook Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2TG

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)

**CALLED TO LOVE** - A retreat for singles, dating and engaged young adults who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. A relaxed weekend on **2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026** at the Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst, Clitheroe BB7 9PZ. This year's retreat will have as its theme masculinity and femininity. For registration visit: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/>

#### **THE COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**

Seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their mission for the re-evangelization of England. Any amount 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](http://www.maryshouseappeal.org) E. [office@walsinghamcommunity.org](mailto:office@walsinghamcommunity.org) T: 01362692574