



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,
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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 April is dedicated to
The Holy Spirit

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 19TH APRIL 2026

Saturday 18 April

St Theresa's	5.00pm	Rod, Josie, David & Gillian's Intentions
St Columba's	6.30pm	Victor Silveira Yamagata RIP

Sunday 19 April – Third Sunday of Easter

St Theresa's	9.30am	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	11.00am	Anne Lucas RIP
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite
	4.30pm	Holy Hour

Monday 20 April

St Theresa's		Mae Dunne's Intentions
St Columba's	10.30am	Mary Ryan

Tuesday 21 April

St Theresa's		Adrian Burns RIP
St Columba's		Telma Silveira Yamagata RIP

Wednesday 22 April

St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	Carol Francis
	1.00pm	Funeral Service for Jeanette Knight

Thursday 23 April – St George, M. Solemn.

St Theresa's		Special Intentions
St Columba's		Philip G Francis

Friday 24 April

St Theresa's	10.00am	Mary Sculley RIP
St Columba's		The Parish

Saturday 25 April

St Theresa's	5.00pm	Angela Stanley's Intentions
St Columba's	6.30pm	Jo Staunton (MS)

Sunday 26 April – 4th Sunday of Easter

St Theresa's	9.30am	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	11.00am	Manoel Lourenco Filho RIP
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL - FOR PRIESTS IN CRISIS. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS - Mass will be streamed at St Theresa's on Sunday 19th April at 9.30 a.m.

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

St Columba's 6.00p.m. - 6.25p.m.

St Theresa's 4.30p.m. - 4.55p.m.

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

ANNIVERSARIES - James Rogerson, Sheila Ann Gilfoyle, William (Jimmy) Hinde, Gerald O'Hanlon.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Please remember in your prayers Jeanette Knight, who died recently, and her family and friends. Funeral service for Jeanette is on Wednesday 22nd April at 1.00pm at St Columba'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: £955.29; Planned Giving: £353.21; Average weekly SO £718.15. (St Columba's) Dona Stations: £85; Candles: £69.50. Holy Places Collection: £108.59. Thank you for your kind generosity.

FR WILLIAM - Please remember that Thursday is Fr William's day off.

RETREAT - Fr William will be away on annual retreat from Sunday 26th April to Friday 1st May.

HOLY HOUR for the Dignity of Human Life - Sunday April 19th 4.30 p.m.

Pope Leo has asked all Bishops and parishes to join him in a Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Life at 4.30 pm on April 19th. Please join us at St Columba's and be part of this world-wide prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for respect for life, bearing in mind the number of abortions, the Assisted Dying Bill and the many wars taking place across the world.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - Building peace is more often about creating space, developing relationships, persevering in spite of overwhelming pessimism, and being flexible enough to respond to emerging opportunities, meager as they may be. —John Paul Lederach

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR –

- The residents of Ethelda Drive, Dorfold Way, Sussex Road, Onslow Road, Springwood Close, Overwood Lane and Melverley Drive.
- All who serve through the Anglican Diocese of Chester, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury and the United Reformed Church Mersey Synod.
- Our churches that they may be filled with the Holy Spirit.

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED - PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SATURDAY 9th MAY 2026, ST COLUMBA'S HALL, 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Join us to hear about the Pastoral Council's work over the past year and to share your ideas for the year ahead. Reports will be presented on parish activities with time for questions. If you wish to raise a specific matter, please send it in writing to either parish secretary by **Thursday 30th April**.

The winners of the **Art Competition** (theme Ecology and Creation) will be announced and entries will be on display. The meeting will be followed by **Afternoon Tea** organised by the Social Committee.

New Members welcome! If you would be interested in joining the Pastoral Council please give your name and contact details to one of the parish secretaries.

Free Raffle Tickets for all attendees (Pastoral Council members not eligible).

Ann McCarthy, Pauline Rourke (co-chairs Pastoral Council)

ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA

We need volunteers every Sunday after 11:00 Mass. 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

19 Apr - volunteers please

26 Apr - Catholic Women's League

3 May - volunteers please

LEPRA – Today 475 people will be diagnosed with leprosy, more than 25 of those will be children. Leprosy is a disease that affects the nerve endings and feet and can affect the blink reflex. For further information go to lepra.org.uk. There will be a retiring collection at all Masses over the weekend of 18th/19th April.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS - St Columba's

On Sunday 3rd May and Sunday 10th May, 11/12 children will be making their First Holy Communions at the 11.00am Mass. The children's families will be joining them for the celebrations so church is likely to be quite full on both occasions. We look forward to welcoming everyone.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2026/2027 - The gift aid envelopes for the new tax year are now available for collection and can be found at the back of the church. There are a small number of un-named boxes also available. If you would like to start using the envelopes, please take a box and contact Kevin Keegan either by email or text message with details of your name and address, the box number and indicate if you are a taxpayer or not. Email: k1bfb@hotmail.com Text: 07790758008

SUGGESTION BOXES - Parishioners' suggestion boxes have been placed in the entrances to both churches. There is a pen and paper attached to each, which we hope will encourage you to use them. They offer an easy means of making suggestions for improvements which can help us all as a parish. Ann McCarthy, Pauline Rourke (co-chairs Pastoral Council)

MISA EN ESPAÑOL UNA VEZ AL MES – Monthly mass in Spanish at St Clare's Church, Downsfield Rd. Chester CH4 8HH. First Mass: Saturday 18th April at 4.00p.m. For information, contact Lina Greig: 07837512544.

NEEDLES & PINS - Wed 22nd April

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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: The Parish "We've Got Talent" event - an evening of entertainment by our very own parishioners - **Friday 15th May** at 7pm in St Columba's church hall. Not to be missed. Tickets £3.00 (or donation) will be on sale from 24th April. Proceeds to parish funds. There will be a list for anyone needing a lift from St Theresa's nearer the time.

DE-FIB TRAINING AND CPR - Thank you to all who attended the defibrillator training at the two churches. If you missed it, don't worry: just check out the British Heart Foundation website (bhf.org.uk) where you can learn CPR in 15 minutes, for free, with RevivR and see how to use a defibrillator. The more people who have this knowledge the better it will be for all of us if we ever have a cardiac arrest.

CHESTER PARISHES CONFIRMATION - Bishop Mark Davies will celebrate the next Chester Catholic Parishes Sacrament of Confirmation on 11th November 2026 at St. Columba's Church. This year the preparation programme for parishioners from all Chester Catholic Parishes will be led by St. Columba and St. Theresa's Confirmation preparation team. Anyone currently at high school or older may prepare to be Confirmed. For youth candidates, to register, parents please email stcolumbatheresaconfirmation@hotmail.co.uk. Please include your child's current school year. Adult candidates, please speak to Fr William first and then email the above email address to join the separate adult preparation group. There will be an information meeting about Confirmation preparation in mid-June, details to be announced nearer the time.

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 **2nd – 3rd 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/>

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 26th April to be compiled by

Magdalena Bukowska, Phone: 01244 624019

Email: stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

Deadline: 9.00a.m. Wednesday 22nd April

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

A THANK YOU TO ST COLUMBA'S RED MISSION BOX HOLDERS - St Columba's parishioners have been thanked by Missio for your kind donations totalling £841.93 in 2025. Please see the poster in the front porch.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 - The Pilgrimage Team are very pleased to announce that bookings are now open for our 2026, 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. By coach 30 July to 7 August and by air 31 July to 6 August. Brochures can be found on the pilgrimage website along with a link to the new online booking system: www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY - will be holding our first 2026 Hospitality Members Focus Group on Tuesday 21st April, at 7pm. This will be open to any Hospitality members, even if you haven't attended previous Focus Groups. We will be encouraged to review the commitments made last year to improve our way of working with each other. We are also delighted that Fr Sean Henry, Chaplain to the Hospitality, will join us. This will take place at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1PL. Please confirm your attendance by emailing secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk.

VACANCIES - Two vacancies within the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team for a **Programme Coordinator** and **Youth Mission Team Member**. Further details regarding both posts can be found on the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>
Interested parties should send their CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch: recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org
Closing date Friday 29 April 2026.

CATHOLIC FAMILY HOLIDAYS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT
Castlerigg Manor in Keswick (heart of the Lake District) is offering budget-friendly holidays for Catholic families during May, August, and early September. Breakfast and evening meal are included and there will be Mass on site. Guests have full use of the site including the grounds, games room, chapel, and lounges, and Castlerigg is just a short walk from Keswick and Lake Derwentwater. Ideal for individuals, couples, families, or groups of friends. Head to www.castleriggmanor.com >> **stay with us** or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / Tel: 017687 72711

YOUTH MINISTRY GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY

Do you know anyone aged 18-25 who is looking for a new challenge? The Diocese of Lancaster has a Youth Ministry team based in Keswick in the Lake District. They run retreats at Castlerigg Manor and also work in Churches and schools around the area. The 'Youth Ministry Internship' scheme comes with high quality training, experience, and recognised qualifications and gives young people the chance to join a welcoming community and a vibrant team doing some amazing work.

Interested? Contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or www.castleriggmanor.com >> **join the team**