



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

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 May is dedicated to
The Blessed Virgin Mary

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 3RD MAY 2026

Saturday 2 May

St Theresa's	5.00pm	Christine North's Intentions
St Columba's	6.30pm	Frank Stone Junior Anniversary

Sunday 3 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

St Theresa's	9.30am	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	11.00am	First Holy Communion Mass Amelia Lourenco RIP
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

Monday 4 May – The English Martyrs Feast

St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St Columba's	10.30am	Monica Calvert RIP

Tuesday 5 May

St Theresa's		Private Intention
St Columba's		Parishioners' Intentions

Wednesday 6 May

St Theresa's		Special Intention
St Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	Helen De Lara RIP

Thursday 7 May

St Theresa's		Adrian Burns RIP
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions

Friday 8 May

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

Saturday 9 May

St Theresa's	5.00pm	Maureen & Michael Cheston's Intentions
St Columba's	6.30pm	Keith Skinner RIP

Sunday 10 May – 6th Sunday of Easter

St Theresa's	9.30am	Tom Groom RIP
St Columba's	11.00am	First Holy Communion Mass Parishioners' Intentions
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

POPES PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY -THAT

EVERYONE MIGHT HAVE FOOD. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS - Mass will be streamed at St Theresa's on Sunday 3rd May at 9.30a.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 - Brian Peter Kelly, Michael Patrick Murray, Thomas William Groom, Mary Lally, John Bond, William Baker.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Please remember in your prayers Patricia Watson, who died recently, and her family and friends. Funeral Service for Patricia is on Thursday 14th May at 12 noon at Chester Crematorium.

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: £524.13; Planned Giving: £276.30; Average weekly SO £718.15. (St Columba's) Dona Stations: £70; Candles: £36.80. Thank you for your kind generosity.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - Words are never merely sounds. They become echoes that linger long after they're spoken- touching hearts, shaping minds, and leaving imprints that endure. Choose your words wisely. Roy T Bennett

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR

- The residents of Arley Close, Lincoln Drive, Grasmere Road, Woodside Road, Oakfield Rd, Highfield Road, and Foxcote Close.
- The elderly and housebound.
- All who prepare the food and for those who come and enjoy the fellowship enjoyed at church meals

SCHOOL MASS – ST COLUMBA'S - There will be a school Mass at St Columba's for year 1 and 2 on

Tuesday 12th May at 10am. All parishioners are welcome to join in.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – 14th MAY - The Ascension is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Vigil Mass will be at 7pm at St Columba's on Wednesday 13th May, Mass on Thursday 14th May will be at St Theresa's at 10am. Please note that as there is Mass at St Columba's at 7pm there will not be the usual morning Mass, Exposition or Novena Prayers that day.

SPIRITAN APPEAL-23/24 MAY - The annual Spiritan Appeal will take place at all Masses over the weekend of 23/24 May. It is a time for us to show our appreciation to the Spiritan Community and the work they do.

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.

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

3 May – Lyn Coyle - Friendship Group

10 May – volunteers please

17 May – Lina Greig - Hopeful Ugandan Hearts

RE-INTRODUCTION OF HOLY COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS - It is hoped to re-introduce this in the near future. To be able to do this we will need more Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, particularly at St Theresa's Saturday evening 5pm Mass and St Columba's for both Masses. If you feel you can take on this role please contact one of the parish offices or Fr William. Training will be given. Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS - St Columba's - Today we have our first family celebrations of First Holy Communion so the central benches will be reserved for the children and their immediate families. We welcome you all and pray for and congratulate these children: Amelia, Julia, Stanley, Amari, Sanaa, Olivia, Jessica, Martyna, Elliot, Oliver and Kaia.

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.

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.

First half - parishioners performing. Break for sandwiches, tea/coffee. Second half - sing-a-long. Tickets £3.00 (minimum donation) from Ann McCarthy, Sue Carr or parish offices and all proceeds are for parish funds. Bring your own alcohol. Please **buy your tickets (£3) in advance for catering purposes**. There is a list for anyone needing a lift from St Theresa's in the church porch. If you can offer a lift, please contact St Theresa's Office.

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

2025/2026 ST THERESA'S ACCOUNTS - A shortened version of St Theresa's accounts are on the noticeboard. If anyone wants any further explanation of the figures please contact St Theresa's office.

THANK YOU –

CAFOD Lent Appeal: More donations have come in and the final figure now stands at £559.50. Many thanks.

LEPRA - Many thanks for the parish amount of £591.14 which was collected for LEPRA recently.

BOOK SALES – ST WERBURGH'S

To celebrate 150 years of St, Werburgh's Church, Chester, being opened, the parishioners have produced a book describing the history of the church/parish over the last 150 years. As so many former parishioners are now in your two parishes, we asked permission to bring copies of the book, to sell at the end of mass on the following dates. Price £7 per copy – cost price.

St. Columba – Sat and Sun 6 and 7 June.

St. Theresa – Sat and Sun 13 and 14 June.

We are sure that you will enjoy this book about the roots of Catholicism in Chester and recommend it to former parishioners. (St. Werburgh's History Group)

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 10th May to be compiled by Alison Wrigglesworth, Phone: 07759 042262

Email: a.wrigglesworth@outlook.com

Deadline: 9.00a.m. Wednesday 6th May

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

LOURDES HOSPITALITY GROUP

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality are holding a day of reflection on Saturday 23rd May at Shrewsbury Cathedral Chapter House. The day will include reflections from Father Sean Henry and Dr Kieran Moriarty. There will also be Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament . All Hospitality members and their guests are welcome to attend.

Please confirm your attendance

to secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

RESOURCES – EASY EVANGELISATION -

www.IsItTrue.net is a new website designed to encourage people to consider joining the Catholic faith. Please consider sharing it with family and friends.

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**