



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa

Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp
pp@sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk



St Columba's
 Plas Newton Lane,
 Chester, CH2 1SA

01244 624019
stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

Website: www.sscolumbaandtheresa.co.uk
 Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

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 July is dedicated to
 The Precious Blood of Jesus

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 26TH JULY 2026

Saturday 25 July

St Theresa's	9.30am	Malankara Jacobite Syriac Community
	5.00pm	Thomas Byrne RIP
St Columba's	6.30pm	Philip Francis RIP (SVP)

Sunday 26 July – Seventeenth Sunday in Ord. Time

St Theresa's	9.30am	Dolan Intentions
St Columba's	11.00am	Tony Walsh RIP 1 st Anniversary
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

Monday 27 July

St Theresa's		Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	10.30am	Joan Dale Anniversary

Tuesday 28 July

St Theresa's		Special Intention
St Columba's	6.30pm	Deacon Tom Coyle RIP

Wednesday 29 July – Ss Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Mem.

St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	Deacon Tom Coyle RIP

Thursday 30 July

St Theresa's		The Spiritan Community
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions

Friday 31 July – St Ignatius of Loyola, P. Mem.

St Theresa's	10.00am	Eileen & Lawrence Hordley's Intentions
St Columba's		The Parish

Saturday 1 August

St Theresa's	5.00pm	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	6.30pm	Pat Wilkinson RIP

Sunday 2 August – 18th Sunday in Ord. Time

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

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS – Mass will be streamed at St Columba's on Sunday 26th July at 11a.m.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY - FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

CONFESSIONS – After each weekday Mass until 11.30a.m. On 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 – Mary Walsh, Thomas Byrne, Anthony James Walsh, Deacon Tom Coyle, Margaret Watson.

RECENTLY DECEASED – Please remember in your prayers, Sandra Brookfield who died recently, and her family and friends. The Funeral of Sandra will be held on Monday 3rd August at 1pm 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: £477.09; Planned Giving: £225.97; Average weekly SO £734.22. (St Columba's) Dona Stations: £70; Candles: £41.48.

Thank you for your kind generosity.

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR -

- The residents of Marina Drive, Cross Green, Chatsworth Drive, Cyman Close, Willan Road, Wemyss Road and Phillips Road.
- For Upton Amblers, Walkers Group, Trekkers and all who meet together for outdoor pursuits.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – When one door closes another opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us. Alexander Graham Bell.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS – To our students, teachers and support staff in schools, wishing you all a happy and fulfilling summer break.

CONFIRMATION – If you wish to prepare to be Confirmed next November and are already at high school, please email ASAP to register: stcolumbatheresaconfirmation@hotmail.co.uk

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

26 July - Helen Connor, Youth Group

2 Aug - volunteers please

9 Aug - volunteers please

COFFEE, TEA AND CAKE THIS SUNDAY, 26TH JULY

Proceeds will go towards activities for the parish Youth Club. Please support! Thank you.

FROM EILEEN AND LAWRENCE

To Fr William for the appreciative words of his homily and to the parish at large for the many kind thoughts and good wishes, on the occasion of Lawrence's retirement from active ministry as parish Deacon, our heartfelt love and thanks. Thanks particularly for the overwhelming generosity shown in your farewell gift, which we intend to use in celebration of our Diamond Wedding anniversary later in the year.

With our prayers always.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Over the coming weeks in the newsletter there will be a very brief introduction to the 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching with a view to exploring the principles in more detail later in the year.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is a body of moral doctrine developed by the Church on matters of social justice, poverty, and human rights. Rooted in Scripture and modern papal encyclicals starting with Pope Leo XIII's 1891 *Rerum Novarum*, it provides a framework for building a just society and living out faith in the modern world. (CAFOD)

Dignity - that every human life is sacred and made in the image of God, regardless of race, status, or background. God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect.

CAFOD NEWS - Re the global debt crisis: let's build on last year's progress and call for further action on debt. A new petition has been introduced and will be available to sign over the summer months. Ann McCarthy will speak at Masses over the weekend of 1st/2nd August.

ST COLUMBA'S RED MISSION BOX HOLDERS

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

FOOD BANK DONATIONS - MORE NEEDED PLEASE

Donated food is taken to the West Cheshire Foodbank at Ellesmere Port every fortnight. Recently, volunteers at the warehouse have had to leave halfway through the day because they had run out of supplies. St Columba's and St Theresa's have been very generous in the past. Last time an appeal was made in the newsletter, the response was amazing and the Centre so grateful. As Pope Leo has said, the poor should be at the heart of the Church. Please give as generously as possible, especially UHT milk, Long-life juice, Pasta in sauce, Coffee, Tinned Meat, Pasta sauce, Tinned vegetables

Thank you so much. Your generosity makes all the difference

ANNUAL PARISH COACH TRIP - NOTTINGHAM

Our annual coach trip this year is to Nottingham on Thurs 30th July for just £18 per person. We depart St Columba's at 08:45 and St Theresa's at 09:00 and leave Nottingham at about 5:00pm. If you haven't yet booked, you will go on the reserve list, as all the seats are currently taken.

HOT WEATHER IN ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

During the current spell of hot weather, it is difficult to cool the church because the small windows at the top of the stained-glass windows can no longer be opened. If you have a personal hand-held fan, please do bring it with you to church. Pauline Rourke

SAFETY IN ST COLUMBA'S PARISH HALL

Following feedback from parishioners and a review of health and safety arrangements in the parish hall, we would like to remind all who come for tea and coffee after the 11.00am Mass on Sundays of the following:

- Children should not enter or play on the stage area, nor touch the curtains, as this presents a safety risk.
- Children should not run around the hall, particularly when hot drinks are being served.

A box of games, colouring and drawing activities will be available for children; it will be kept behind the bar. We kindly ask parents and carers to return the items to the bar area afterwards.

Children are very welcome in our parish community, and we hope that parents and carers will understand the need for these measures to help ensure that the hall remains a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. The Pastoral Council

MARSH & PLESSINGTON, THE CHESTER MARTYRS

- This is the theme for the next Churches Together Fifth Sunday service to be held in the Iona Chapel at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday 30th August. Please join us in this short service together with our friends from the other Upton Churches.

FR WILLIAM - Is available to meet with parishioners after 10.30a.m. Mass on Mondays & Wednesdays or can be contacted at St Theresa's presbytery (details on top of Newsletter). Thursday is his day off.

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 2nd August to be compiled by Magdalena Bukowska, Phone: 01244 624019
Email: stcolumbaschurch2016@outlook.com

Deadline: 9.00a.m. Wednesday 29th July

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

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - Next week, the 2026 75th Anniversary Diocesan Pilgrimage will set out for Lourdes. Please remember us in your prayers. Parishioners can follow Lourdes TV via the Sanctuaries website <https://www.lourdes-france.com> and may wish to join us for the International Mass on Sunday 2 August at 9.30am (8.30am UK time) and Grotto Mass on Monday 3 August at 10am (9am UK time). Other liturgies maybe live streamed too.

This year Bishop Mark has invited the Pilgrimage to pray for the following intentions:

- For Our Holy Father, Pope Leo.
- For all who have gone before us over the 75 years of our Diocesan Pilgrimage.
- That we and all pilgrims will respond to the message of prayer and conversion, walking together in Eucharistic faith and love, all our lives.
- That we will generously respond to our calling, and for an abundance of new vocations in our Diocese to the great callings of Marriage, the Priesthood and the Consecrated Life.
- For the peace of the world amid many dangers and conflicts.
- That the threat of euthanasia to the sick and the aged will be averted and the lives of the most vulnerable cherished and safeguarded.
- With Our Lady and Saint Bernadette that through the pilgrimage of life we will always remain in the joy of the Gospel.

ST THERESA'S ANNIVERSARY

On the 15th September it will be 70 years since the first Parish Priest was appointed to St Theresa's. If anyone has any photos or information they would like to share with the parish, please let us know. Please write your name and tel. no. on them so that the items can be returned. Thank you.

BADMINTON GROUP The Parish Badminton Group meets on Thursdays from 7p.m. to 9p.m. in St Columba's Hall and is looking for new members. Mixed group, all ages, all abilities welcome.

CATHOLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT THIS SUMMER

During August and September, Castlerigg Manor in Keswick is opening its doors to families, groups of friends, or private individuals who are looking for an affordable stay in the Lake District. Breakfast and evening meal are provided, and Mass is celebrated on site. For more information check out castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / 017687 72711

QUIET RETREATS FOR ADULTS THIS OCTOBER

During October half term, Castlerigg Manor is running a quiet retreat for individual adults who want to spend a few days of peace, relaxation, and prayer in the Lake District. Each day there will be a talk, Mass, and evening prayer, and then a lot of time to explore the area, pray, or just simply relax.

Book at castleriggmanor.com/events or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

MARRIAGE IN A RUT?

Or need help with deeper issues?

Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd-4th October.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983