



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa

Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp
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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 September is dedicated to Our Lady of Pity		
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026		
Saturday 5th September		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Malankara Jacobite Syriac Community
	5.00pm	For a successful outcome
St Columba's	6.30pm	Peter Cuniff RIP
Sunday 6th September		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	11.00am	Special Intention (AT)
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite
Monday 7th September		
St Theresa's		Private Intention
St Columba's	10.30am	Mary Ryan (CM)
Tuesday 8th September		
St Theresa's		Special Intention
St Columba's	6.30pm	Parishioners' Intentions
Wednesday 9th September		
St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St Columba's	9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15am	Novena Prayers
	10.30am	Rosemary McRoberts
Thursday 10th September		
St Theresa's		Michelles' Intentions
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions
Friday 11th September		
St Theresa's	10.00am	Sarah Russell RIP
St Columba's		Parishioners' Intentions
Saturday 12th September		
St Theresa's	5.00pm	Mark Buggy RIP
St Columba's	6.30pm	Georgina Goodyear (Wed. Ann)
Sunday 13th September		
St Theresa's	9.30am	Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	11.00am	The Parish
	2.00pm	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS – Mass will be streamed at St Theresa's on Sunday 6th September at 9.30a.m.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER – For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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

Winifred McGlown, James Donnelly, Julia Sheila Ring, Kathleen Joy Borg, Kathleen Teresa Baxter

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 – 23rd August 2026

Loose Plate: £424.62; Planned Giving: £200.30; Average weekly SO £734.72. (St Columba's) Dona Stations: £TBC; Candles (Loose) £32.66; Thank you for your kind generosity.

ST THERESA'S FEAST DAY

If anyone would like to donate towards flowers to decorate the church, please put your donation in an envelope marked flowers and place in the offertory basket. Many thanks.

MONDAY MASS – 14th SEPTEMBER

We have now managed to get a priest to say Mass on Monday 14th September at 6.30pm at St Columba's.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - "If you see someone without a smile give them yours." Dolly Parton

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR

- The residents of Daleside, Meadowsway, Queensway, Cleaveland Road, Stratford Road, Walton Place, and Downham Place
- The junior and Infant schools: Acresfield, Upton Heath, Mill View, Westlea, Dorin Park and St Werburgh's & St Columba's and St Theresa's. Also schools in Newton, Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford.
- The teachers and pupils that they will be open to the Christian teaching they receive.
- The local clergy as they lead assemblies.

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

Please contact your MP to oppose assisted suicide- The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which seeks to legalise assisted suicide, will return to the House of Commons for its Second Reading and vote on **Friday, 11 September 2026**.

The Bishops' Conference is urging Catholics to contact their MP and ask them to oppose the Bill. Archbishop Richard Dooley has warned that it could place vulnerable people under pressure to end their lives and could create serious difficulties for health and social care staff, hospices and care homes.

Please make your voice heard. Even if you have contacted your MP previously, please consider doing so again. The charity **Right to Life UK** provides a simple online facility to contact your MP by entering your postcode.

For information and to take action, visit: cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide (Bishops Conference of England Wales website) righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote

Contact details for Chester MP - Samantha Dixon, email samantha.dixon.mp@parliament.uk, constituency office, The Bluecoat, Upper Northgate St, Chester CH1 4EE; Parliamentary office, House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Please read posters in our churches.

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

6 Sept - Richard Curtis for Altar Servers

13 Sept - Lyn Coyle for Friendship Group

20 Sept - volunteers please

27 Sept - MacMillan Coffee Morning

CHURCHES TOGETHER UPTON AGM INVITATION

You are warmly invited to attend on Wednesday 9th September at 2.30p.m. at the URC on Heath Road, Upton. New members would be very welcome so if you want to know more, please contact Lyn on 07735574395.

FRIENDSHIP THURSDAY IS BACK SOON

Beginning again on Sept 17th from 2-4 pm in the Church Hall. We will meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month until July 2027. There are guest speakers and sometimes interesting activities but the main purpose is to meet other people for coffee, chat and friendship. It's very informal and friendly so do come and bring a friend if you like. Anyone is welcome. On Sept 17th, there will be a raffle, including cakes. We have a free book table with a new selection of books. We ask for £2 towards running costs please. For information see posters in the church porches or contact Lyn Coyle 37745574397 / marilyn.coyle44@gmail.com

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION CLASSES

For children who come to either St Columba's or St Theresa's churches but do not attend one of the RC Primary Schools. They are held in the Newman Room at St Columba's on Wednesday evenings in term time from 5pm to 6pm. The classes

will begin on Wednesday 23rd Sept. If you have a child in Year 3 or above who would like to enrol to join these classes to prepare for First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion this school year, or if you would like any further information, please contact Pauline Payne by email pauline.payne4@btinternet.com

ST THERESA'S CLUB EVENT

Classical guitar duo concert at 11am on Monday 14th September. All welcome

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TRAINING (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). So far we have briefly covered the principles of Human Dignity, Solidarity, The Care of Creation, The Common Good, The Option for the Poor, The Dignity of Work and Participation and finally....

Call to Family, Community and Participation

The human person is not only sacred, but social. How we organize our society — socially, economically, legally and politically — directly affects human dignity and the ability of every human person to grow in community. Marriage and family, the foundations for social life, should be strengthened and supported. Every person has a right to participate in society and a corresponding duty to work for the advancement of the common good and the well-being of all. (The Catholic Spirit)

ST THERESA'S ANNIVERSARY

The first Parish Priest was appointed to oversee the creation of St Theresa's parish on 15th September 1956. To celebrate this 70th anniversary, there will be cream tea after 9.30a.m. Mass on Sunday 13th September. A bigger celebration to mark the building of the church will take place in 2028.

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.

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 2p.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 13th September to be compiled by Paula Bownass tele. 01244 379794

Or email: paulabownas@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline: Wednesday 9th September 9.00A.M.

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

HERITAGE OPEN DOORS FESTIVAL, CHESTER

St. Werburgh's Parish History Group will be holding a display, showing the building of St. Werburgh's and what parish life was like 100 years ago. The church will be open to visitors Mon 14 – Fri 18 Sep inclusive, from 1.00 – 3.00pm. In addition there will be a talk on Wed 16 Sep at 2.00pm, explaining these topics in further detail. Come and see how many people/events you remember.

SVP APPEAL FOR CHILD'S FURNITURE

We are currently supporting a lady and her one-year-old boy who have recently moved from homelessness to a new home. She needs some furniture to store clothes etc for her child's bedroom. Does anyone have a child's chest of drawers or wardrobe, in good condition, to donate. Please contact Sue McCarthy, Mark Traynor or any SVP member. 07515491251. Thank you.

FEMALE NANNY WANTED

A family based in Chester are looking for a female after-school nanny to help with childcare for their 3 school-aged children twice a week with some overnight stays too. If you would like to have a chat, please contact 07507190242.

SAVE THE DATE – 16TH OCTOBER

There will be a family fun evening in St Theresa's centre starting at 7:30p.m. Watch this space for more details.

PARISH WEBSITE

Unfortunately, there is a problem with uploading new material to the website at the moment. Our website manager has reported an issue with Wordpress who manage the format of the website. There are items of news and photographs of Deacon Lawrence's farewell celebration waiting to be uploaded. Please keep looking. It is hoped that this will soon be addressed.

CAFOD PETITION SIGNING – CANCEL THE DEBT:

Our petition signatures have been collected alongside many other parishes and CAFOD will communicate the results with the government at the end of the year as they take over the presidency of the G20. As the UK is hosting the G20 it gives us a special opportunity to push for urgent action.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES have arisen within the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team (SYMT), based in Stockport & the Curial office based in Birkenhead. Further details for all vacancies can be found on the Diocesan website <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers> Closing date: 18 September.

THE DIMENSIONS OF LOVE – FR TOM'S PILGRIMAGE

To mark ten years of priestly ministry, Fr Tom Cunnah will undertake a nine-day, 130-mile thanksgiving pilgrimage across the Diocese of Shrewsbury, from West Kirby to Ludlow and Shining Tor, beginning on 3 September. Along the way, he will be praying for vocations and raising awareness and funds for the work

of Caritas supporting families in need. Parishioners can follow his journey on Caritas social media.

COME AND VISIT OUR SCHOOL St Werburgh's and St Columba's Catholic Primary School

Families considering a school place for **September 2027** are warmly invited to visit us and discover what makes our school such a welcoming and special place to learn. Each open day will include a tour of the school with our headteacher, giving prospective parents and carers an opportunity to see the school in action, meet members of our community and ask any questions they may have.

Open-day dates

- Wednesday 30 September 2026 at 1.30 pm
- Wednesday 7 October 2026 at 9.30 am
- Tuesday 20 October 2026 at 9.30 am
- Wednesday 4 November 2026 at 1.30 pm
- Wednesday 11 November 2026 at 9.30 am
- Wednesday 2 December 2026 at 9.30 am

Please contact the school office to reserve your place: office@lovelearnlaugh.org.uk 01244 478968