



The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa

Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp
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St Columba's
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 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 October is dedicated to
 the Holy Rosary

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18TH OCTOBER 2026

Saturday 17 October

St Theresa's	5.00p.m	Lionel William Steele RIP
St Columba's	6.30p.m	Margaret Patino Pan RIP (CJ)

Sunday 18 October – Day of Special Prayer for World Missions

St Theresa's	9.30a.m	Czeslawa Boryslawska RIP
St Columba's	11.00a.m	Delia Hesketh
	2.00p.m	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

Monday 19 October – St Peter of Alcantara, P. Mem.

St Theresa's		Joan Hayden RIP
St Columba's	10.30a.m	Cathy Murphy

Tuesday 20 October

St Theresa's		Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	6.30p.m.	Isabel Roberts

Wednesday 21 October

St Theresa's		John Fletcher RIP
St Columba's	9.30a.m	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15a.m	Novena Prayers
	10.30a.m	Private Intention (C.H)

Thursday 22 October

St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St Columba's		Priests' Intentions

Friday 23 October

St Theresa's	10.00a.m	Anthony Baker RIP
St Columba's		Carmen Simon

Saturday 24 October

St Theresa's	5.00p.m	Czeslawa Boryslawska RIP
St Columba's	6.30p.m	Unborn Child

Sunday 25 October – 30th Sunday in Ord. Time

St Theresa's	9.30a.m	Jessica Baker RIP
St Columba's	11.00a.m	Margaret Patino Pan RIP (SH)
	2.00p.m	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

WELCOME- We welcome Fr Josephat Ezeanlue CSSp as assistant Parish Priest. We hope he settles in soon and enjoys his time with us.

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.

CHANGES TO BAPTISM ARRANGEMENTS

Baptisms will be carried out in groups on a Sunday designated by Fr William. Individual Baptisms are no longer offered. The next Baptism Sunday will be on 29th November at 12.30 pm, preceded by a meeting with parents on 24th November at 4.30 pm in the Newman Room. Baptism forms will be available in the front and back porches. Please submit the form to the Parish Office by 19th November. The following Baptism Sunday will be on 27th December at 12.30 pm. Parents' Meeting: 21st December. Deadline for submission of the forms: 16th December.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr John Kirwan, Mill Hill Father whose work in the Democratic Republic of Congo was supported for many years by our Parish. Please also remember in your prayers, Kate Hughes, and her family and friends. Kate's funeral will take place at St Clare's on Wednesday 21st October at 12 noon.

ANNIVERSARIES – Maureen Teresa Brady, Doreen Mary Judge.

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: £460.07; Planned Giving: £245.25; Average weekly SO £734.72. St Columba's Dona Stations: £43; Candles £41.70. Mission Appeal £336.63 Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION - For World Mission Sunday this weekend of 17th/18th October.

POPES PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER - For mental health ministry. Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS – Mass will be streamed at St Columba's on Sunday 18th October at 11.00a.m.

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR -

- The residents of Marl Heyes, Upton Park, Delvine Drive, Exeter Place, Burns Way, Masefield Drive, Aragon Green & Brentwood Road.
- The magazine committee, newsletter editors, distributors and those who run the bookstalls in our churches.
- A deepening of our faith through the written word.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for our young parishioners who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on 11th November.

PAT WILKINSON'S MEMORIAL SERVICE - Will take place on Sunday 8th November at 11a.m. Family, friends and parishioners are warmly invited.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER - This weekend, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. There will be a retiring collection at all Masses over the weekend of 17/18 October for World Mission Sunday.

TOMBOLA PRIZES NEEDED PLEASE

We are now collecting donations for the Tombola at the Autumn Fair on 15th November. Please leave your kind donations of bottles and other prizes inside the entrance to St Columba's and St Theresa's.

ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE ROTA

Every Sunday after 11:00a.m. Mass. To volunteer, put your details on the sheet and let Margaret Curtis know on 01244 318424 or marg.curtis@outlook.com

18 Oct - Volunteers please

25 Oct - Maggie Burns, Maisy - Zanzibar

1 Nov - Volunteers please

LATIN NIGHT

Latin Night in aid of Hopeful Ugandan Hearts!! Saturday 14th November from 7p.m. to 11p.m. at St Columba's Church Hall. £20 Adult tickets include welcome drink and Latin Food buffet. Cash/card bar. **Booking essential** contact Lina Greig 07837512544. All proceeds will support 60 children to go to school, buy food and specially get their Christmas presents. Come, dance and enjoy an evening of Latin dancing and food to make a difference of the children in Uganda.

SPANISH MASS

Next Spanish Mass for our Spanish speaking community in Chester and anyone who wishes to participate will be held on Saturday 24th October 4p.m. at St. Clare's Church, Downsfield Rd, Chester. CH4 8HH. Tea and coffee will be served after Mass! This Mass Will take place once a month and is a beautiful opportunity to come together in faith, prayer and community in the Spanish Language. ¡Todos son Bienvenidos!

DIOCESE'S MESSAGE REGARDING ONLINE NEPAL APPEAL

The Diocese is aware that an overseas priest who previously served in the Diocese has been seeking financial support for work in Nepal. While we recognise the desire to assist those in need, the Diocese would not recommend responding to fundraising requests of this nature. Those wishing to support relief efforts in Nepal are encouraged instead to donate through CAFOD's emergency appeal, which is supporting the work of Caritas Nepal. Any contribution would be gratefully received.

<https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies>

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group will meet on Monday 19th October, starting at 7p.m. in the Newman room and finishing at 8.30p.m. in St Columba's Church hall. All young parishioners school year 5, or older are welcome and encouraged to join our happy group.

SUGGESTION BOXES - Nine suggestions, received through the boxes, were discussed by Fr William and Pastoral Council members. It was encouraging to see parishioners sharing their thoughts, which were largely positive and constructive.

Suggestions included holding a memorial Mass for Pat Wilkinson in recognition of her contribution to parish life; encouraging parishioners, on occasion, to ask one another how they are after Mass, as a simple way of strengthening community spirit; making Mass more engaging for younger children through age appropriate hymns as learnt at school, and other activities.

One comment expressed concern that families may feel intimidated by older parishioners' disapproval when their children are not completely quiet in church. We want families to feel welcome and children to know that they belong in our parish community.

Other suggestions raised wider questions about the Church, including women priests, married priests and greater visibility and welcome for LGBTQ+ people. While some matters lie beyond the Parish Council's remit, all comments provide an opportunity to listen and reflect.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Please continue to share your ideas as we work together to build a welcoming and caring parish. Ann McCarthy, Pauline Rourke, co-chairs Pastoral Council.

CTU QUIZ NIGHT!

It is Quiz Night on Friday October 30th so do come for a fun evening. Be there for a 7p.m. start or come to join a team on the spot. Bring your own drinks and glasses; table nibbles are provided and a hot drink at the interval. There will be a raffle. Admission £3 per person at the door with all profits going to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

WEBSITE GOOD NEWS - The difficulties with the website seem to have at last been overcome and you should now see new items being uploaded over the next few weeks. Look for the Coming Events picture at the top which will have links to parish events.

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 9.00a.m. to 2.00p.m.

Open 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. visit/contact

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 25th October to be compiled by

Amy O'Donnell, Phone: 07854 290897

Email: amyod@hotmail.co.uk

Deadline: Wednesday 21st October 9.00 A.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

NEW TO THE PARISH?

Welcome. We hope you will enjoy being part of our parish. Please fill in a New Parishioner form (copies in the back and front porches and available on the website). Please give this into the office at either church and arrangements will be made for someone to contact you for a friendly call to say Hello and welcome you personally.

FRIENDSHIP THURSDAY on the third Thursday afternoon of every month from 2-4p.m. Our guest/ or activities till Christmas are:

November 19th: **Fairtrade** is coming to speak about their work and to sell all manner of Fairtrade items. Bring your purse and look out for cards, food and gift items for Christmas!

December 17th: a chance to make a Christmas table decoration. **A generous sponsor has offered to pay the costs so no charge will be made.**

ST.COLUMBA'S PARISH OFFICE HOURS

From Monday 19 October, the Parish Office will be open **10.00a.m – 1.00p.m, Monday to Friday.**

The Parish Secretary will continue to work from **9.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.** We would be grateful if those wishing to visit or contact the Parish Office could, wherever possible, do so during the office opening hours. This will allow dedicated time within the working day for administration and other parish work. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Pauline Rourke

CHS CHRISTMAS FAIR AND GROTTO

The High School will once again be hosting its popular Christmas Fair and Grotto on Monday 14 December, from 3.30pm to 6.00pm, in support of the Christo Fidelis Fund. Entry is just £1 per person. If you would like to run a stall at the fair, tables are available to hire for £10. To reserve a table, please contact Sally Faulkner at faulkners@christofidelis.org.uk. We are also gratefully accepting donations for our raffle, including unwanted gifts, bottles, chocolates, and other suitable prizes. Donations can be dropped off at the school reception. We are extremely grateful for your continued support and look forward to welcoming you to this festive community event.

CHESTER THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY LECTURE

Working Beyond the Text: Historical Consultation on the Visual Presentation of Scripture, presented by Dr Katie Turner, King's College London, at 7.30p.m. on Wednesday 28th October at Hollybank (Chester University Dept of Theology & Religious Studies).

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE, STONYHURST

The Centre is offering three different opportunities for people to deepen their faith and prepare for an important new chapter.

RETREAT: BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

20th–23rd November 2026 – Residential retreat exploring mindfulness, psychology and the Christian spiritual life. Find out more and book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god/>

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WEEKEND

8th–10th January 2027 - Residential Marriage Preparation Weekend offering time and space to explore the beauty of the Church's teaching of the Sacrament of Matrimony. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/marriage-preparation/>

MEN'S RETREAT: SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST IGNATIUS

26th February - 3rd March 2027 OR 5th - 10th March 2027 - A five-day silent retreat for men (laity and clergy), led by Benedictine monks from St Joseph's Abbey, Flavigny.