

The Catholic Parish of St Columba and St Theresa



Parish Priest: Fr William Damah CSSp
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Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

St Columba's
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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 October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
25th OCTOBER 2026

Saturday 24th October		
St Theresa's	5.00p.m	Czeslawa Boryslawska RIP
St Columba's	6.30p.m	(Unborn Child)
Sunday 25th October		
St Theresa's	9.30a.m	Jessica Baker RIP
St Columba's	11.00a.m	Margaret Patino Pan RIP
	2.00p.m	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite
Monday 26th October		
St Theresa's		Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's	10.30a.m	Peeter Thomas Pountain RIP
Tuesday 27th October		
St Theresa's		Priests' Intentions
St Columba's	6.30p.m.	Priests' Intentions
Wednesday 28th October – Ss Simon & Jude		
St Theresa's		Private Intention
St Columba's	9.30a.m	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.15a.m	Novena Prayers
	10.30a.m	Jo Staunton
Thursday 29th October		
St Theresa's		Parishioners' Intentions
St Columba's		The Parish
Friday 30th October		
St Theresa's	10.00a.m	John Rogers RIP
St Columba's		Parishioners Intentions
Saturday 31st October		
St Theresa's	5.00p.m	Katherine Gannon RIP
St Columba's	6.30p.m	John McMahon RIP
Sunday 1st November – 31st Sunday in Ord. Time – All Saints		
St Theresa's	9.30a.m	Nicholas Gannon RIP
St Columba's	11.00a.m	Avondale Williams RIP
	2.00p.m	Kerala Catholic Community Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS – Mass will be streamed at St Columba's on Sunday 25th October at 11.00a.m.

ALL SOULS' DAY – MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER
Mass will be celebrated at St Columba's at 10.30am.
If you would like to remember any deceased during the month of November, please put their names in an envelope marked Holy Souls and place it in the basket in front of the altar next weekend.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES – Maureen Teresa Brady, Doreen Mary Judge, Kathleen Holden, John Fletcher, Nicholas Philip Lancaster, Rose Marshall.

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: £475.51; Planned Giving: £198.84; Average weekly SO £734.72. St Columba's Dona Stations: £43; Candles £41.70. Mission Appeal £336.63 Thank you for your generosity.

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 – "When life throws you a rainy day, play in the puddles". And "A hug is always the right size". Pooh, A.A. Milne (100th anniversary of Winnie the Pooh).

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR -

- The residents of Upton Drive, Pine Gardens, Bache Avenue, Boleyn Close, Tudor Green, Saxon Way & Palatine Close.
- The British Legion, Golf Club and Village Hall Committee, and all who use their facilities.
- Those who have served their country.

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.

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
25 Oct - Maggie Burns, Maisy - Zanzibar
01 Nov - Volunteers please
08 Nov – Remembrance Sunday

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.

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

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, at St Columba's Hall, 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 UPDATE - Sadly, we celebrated too soon. Yet another glitch has arisen which is not at all our fault. All should be well soon when WordPress has performed another action, long overdue. Apologies again.

NEEDLES AND PINS – WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER
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.

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.

THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, CHESTER – 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING
Thursday 12 November. 6.00pm–8.00pm - *Arrivals from 5.45pm.*
Year 11 students and their families are warmly invited to our Sixth Form Open Evening. Join us to discover the courses we offer, meet subject teachers, explore Emmaus, our purpose-built Sixth Form building, and learn more about the application process and key dates. We look forward to welcoming 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 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 1st November to be complied by
Paula Bownas, Phone: 01244 379794
Email: paulabownas@yahoo.co.uk
Deadline: Wednesday 28th 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

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.

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

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. https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius/