

St Columba's Church

1 Newhall Road, Plas Newton, Chester CH2 1SA

Parish Priest: Fr. Russell Cooke

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Parish website: www.stcolumbachester.org.uk

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025



Chester Hospitals' Chaplaincy Tel: 01244 364543, answer phone available

SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2015 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.

MASS TIMES:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 7.15 p.m.
Sunday: 9.15 a.m.
11.00 a.m.
Monday: 9.15 a.m.
Tuesday: 9.15 a.m.
Wednesday: 9.15 a.m.
Thursday: 9.15 a.m.
Friday: 9.15 a.m.
Saturday: 9.15 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass: 7.15 p.m.
Sunday: 9.15 a.m.
11.00 a.m.

INTENTIONS:

Fr. Peter Finnerty.
Tim Ehlen.
The Parish.
Victor Fry. A.
Lesbia Sullivan.
Eileen O'Donovan.
Francis Watts.
David Beckett.
Sean McCabe.
Bob Meadows.
Winifred McSweeney
The Parish.

MORNING PRAYER:

Each morning at 9.00 a.m. in the Sacristy Office, Monday through to Saturday, except Wednesdays when Novena prayers are held at 9.15 a.m. before Mass commences.

CONFESSIONS:

Each Saturday; after morning Mass, and in the evening from 6.45 until 7.10 p.m.

LATELY DEAD:

Margaret Leaver, please remember John and family in your prayers.

BAPTISMS:

By appointment. After speaking to Fr. Cooke to arrange a date, please contact Claire Graham on 01244 341287 / 0788 055 3830.

PRAYER CYCLE:

During Ordinary Time (Winter) and up to Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; the Sick and their Carers; Victims of Trafficking and those working to combat it; Students & Teachers; the Unemployed.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:

Please join Bishop Mark, the clergy of Shrewsbury Cathedral and the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) in a Prayer Vigil for Religious Freedom at the Cathedral on **Saturday 21st February** at 3:00pm. The vigil will last no more than ninety minutes and will give us all the chance to learn about, reflect on and pray for all of those Christians around the world who are currently suffering terrible hardships because of their Faith. See posters in the porches or on the parish website.

OFFERTORY:

Loose Plate: £498.64
Planned Giving: £454.45
Average Weekly SOs: £510.00

Many thanks for your generous support.

If you are interested in joining the Planned Giving and/or Gift Aid schemes, please ring David Savage on 01244 380626.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Please remember in your prayers: Ray James, Marjorie Sweeney, Ida Trumdale, Ethel McGlown, Robert Shelton, Kathleen O'Farrell, Joseph Hanratty, David Harris, William Bailey, Annie Sweeney, Stephanus Windsor, George Hollingsworth, Alfred Winn, Rachel Joyce, William Thompson, William Victor (Vic) Fry, George Ogg, Ellen Ferguson, Joseph Hilton, Sheila Davies, Trudy Potts, James Frances Blythin, Henrietta Helen Bond, John James (Sean) McCabe, Bernard Nicholas, Francis James Watts, Hilda Heveran, Joyce Wynne, Sydney Joseph Merchant (B.E.M.), Susan McGann, Margaret Finnigan, Bridget Mary McManus, Lilian May Adams, Marlene Rose Tyrrell, Bernard Leigh.

UPTON CHURCHES PRAYER DIARY:

This week we pray for:

- The residents of Whitton Drive, Sutton Drive, Bidston Close and Greenfield Lane.
- For the Babies & Toddler Group, Sunshine Tots, Praise & Play and for all the leaders.
- For young families.

NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS ROTAS:

Please pick up a copy of your new Rotas (which includes Holy Week) from the front porch. Please can I ask you to find a replacement should you be unable to carry out your duty - especially during Holy Week.

SVP COLLECTION:

The SVP collection amounted to £336.98. We have bought £100.00 worth of food for the Food bank. Many thanks for your continued support.

RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND - SPECIAL COLLECTION:

Note from Bishop Mark:

Next weekend the annual Collection for the Retired Priests' Fund will be held. In the time I have been with you, I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of the Diocese towards the Retired Priests' Fund. With your help, we can build up the Fund to meet the future needs of our sick and retired priests.

Special Envelopes are available for you to use. A Leaflet about the Fund is also available which explains how to make a regular donation to the Fund by Standing Order, or how you can make your donation by cheque. It also explains how to take advantage of Gift Aid for your donations to the Fund. I ask that you give as generously as you can to this very worthy cause and would also like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support.

With every blessing,

+ Mark **Bishop of Shrewsbury**

FEAST OF THE WEEK:

- Wednesday: **Our Lady of Lourdes.** On this day, 11th February, and on further occasions in 1858, Our Lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, southern France. She revealed that she was the Immaculate Conception, that she wished a chapel to be built at the place for people to process to, and that they should drink from the healing waters of the spring that Bernadette was to scratch from the earth. This was the origin of the shrine, visited by millions of pilgrims each year to this day.
- Saturday: **Sts Cyril & Methodius,** 9th century brothers, known as "Apostles of the Slavs". Brought up in the area of Constantinople, they were sent to evangelise the Slav people of Moravia, in the area of the present-day Czech Republic. They were early pioneers of the use of the vernacular language in scripture and liturgy, developing what was later to become known as the "Cyrillic" alphabet to meet the need. In recognition of their work of uniting East-West traditions, John Paul II honoured them joint Patrons of Europe.

THE CALL, THE JOURNEY AND THE MISSION:

This is the title given by the Bishops of England & Wales to their document inviting us to reflect on "the Gift of Marriage and Family Life". Fr. Cooke thinks it would be good for the parish to use the document in our reflections during Lent, and arrangements are being made to facilitate this. In their document the Bishops pose six questions and invite our response. Our answers will feed into the Synod called by Pope Francis to take place in October 2015, with the theme *The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World*. Fr. Cooke encourages us to accept the Bishops' invitation. Please watch out for more details on how our parish can respond, which will be issued soon.

CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT STUDY GROUPS:

This year's Lent Study Groups will be held in the Kempe Room at Holy Ascension Church on the six Tuesdays in Lent: **24th February, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March.** There will be two sessions: at 2.00 p.m. and repeated at 7.30 p.m.

ST. COLUMBA'S HALL BOOKINGS:

For all Hall bookings and enquiries please contact Sue Carr on 07553 114531

E-mail: columbashallbookings@gmail.com

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place this year from **July 28th – August 5th overland and July 29th – August 4th by air.** Booking forms are available from St. Alban's Wallasey and St. Peter's Hazel Grove as well as from the pilgrimage website

www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk. The pilgrimage is led by Bishop Mark, and in recent years some 900 people from the diocese and of all ages have joined in making the pilgrimage to this special place. All are welcome to join the pilgrimage and we look forward to receiving applications from those who have never been to Lourdes. We particularly look forward to welcoming nurses and healthcare professionals to assist in the care of the sick and less able. Full details are available on the website.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA:

Feb 8th Chris & Liz Nichols Tombola
Feb 15th CWL CWL
Feb 22nd Maggie Jarrett OAKS

If you would like to support a charity by making coffee in the hall after Sunday morning Mass please contact Margaret Curtis 318424.

Teas, coffees and juices are served in the Hall after both Sunday morning Masses. All are welcome.

SVP THEATRE SHOW:

Do you fancy a night out on the 4th March? We have been allocated tickets for a show Neighbourhood Watch at the Gladstone Theatre, Port Sunlight Village. Tickets are £8.00 and all monies will go towards the upkeep of our holiday home at Talacre. Anyone wanting tickets, please contact Brian Forrest (01244 318863).

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

The Ladies of the Catholic Women's League will hold their February meeting at St. Francis church commencing with Holy Mass at 12'clock followed by a talk given by Mgr. Canon Christopher Lightbound. Please bring your own lunch, tea will be provided.

If any ladies of the parish would care to join us at this special meeting you will very welcome

NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER:

This will be compiled by Ann Siddall

Tel: 01244 371787

Email: a-siddall@sky.com

Items for inclusion can be left in the blue folder in the Sacristy. Please ensure that all items are in place by 9.00 a.m. on Thursday. Please include a phone number in case of queries.

Website: www.stcolumbachester.org.uk