

St Columba's Church

1 Newhall Road, Plas Newton, Chester CH2 1SA

Parish Priest: Fr. Russell Cooke

Tel: 01244 400873 E-mail: st.columba@btinternet.com

Deacon: Rev. Lawrence Hordley: Tel: 01244 342048, Mobile 0796 051 7463

Parish website: www.stcolumbachester.org.uk

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 2015

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.

INTENTIONS:

Nancy McHugh.
Frances Connolly.
The Parish.
Karol Kunicki. SVP.
David Miller. A.
Marie Terese Camilierie.
Edwin Edwards.

7.15 p.m. Service of Reconciliation,

shared with Chester & District parishes, confessions heard by visiting priests

Friday: 9.15 a.m. Elizabeth Williams. B.
7.15 p.m. Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion.
Saturday: 9.15 a.m. Frances Connolly.
Saturday Vigil Mass: 7.15 p.m. Peter O'Hora A.
Sunday: 9.15 a.m. The Parish.
11.00 a.m. Anne Robertson.

BAPTISMS:

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

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.

LATELY DEAD:

Kathleen Sharp and Margery Dodman. We pray for them and that you will comfort their families.

Chris Healey, a former teacher at St Werburgh's Middle School and, St Werburgh and St Columba's Primary School recently died in Peterborough, leaving a wife Eleri and a seven-year-old daughter Grace. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Please remember in your prayers: Vincent Francis Barlow, Edward Dean Donnelly, Margaret M McGeachin, Norman Thomas Dodd, Mary Jane Layden, Dr. John Foody, and Mary Elizabeth Rodriguez, Francis Wright, Annie Roberts, Josephine Angela Daisie Roberts, Gloria Elizabeth Mary Williams, Stanley Richard Tilston, Maurice Chapman Snr, Harry Grove, Rose Mary Mitchell, Kenneth (Ken) Roy Thompson, Donald Goodacre, Eddie Edwards, Joseph (Joe) O'Reilly, Annie Sweeney, Thomas Walter Bowker, Philip Parry, Kevin Coriam, Sarah Healey, Thomas Henry Lennon, Teresa O'Rourke, Angela Elizabeth (Betty) Beadles, Eva Fitzpatrick, Kathleen Veronica Lloyd.

CONFESSIONS:

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

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA:

March 22nd Alison & Paul Tombola
March 29th Anne & Anthony Parish
April 5th SPUC SPUC

Teas, coffees and juices are served in the Hall after both Sunday morning Masses. All are welcome.
The next coffee rota is on the notice board in the hall. There are some vacancies. If you would like to volunteer, please add your name.

OFFERTORY:

Loose Plate: £562.25
Planned Giving: £454.82
Average Weekly SOs: £510.00

Donations:

Priests Retirement Fund: £165.00
Many thanks for your generous support.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Friday 24th April Family Bingo Evening
Sunday 7th June Annual BBQ to celebrate the anniversary of St Columba

Friday 24th July Coach trip to Lancaster
Keep an eye on the newsletters and notice boards for further information.

UPTON CHURCHES PRAYER DIARY:

This week we pray for:

- the residents of Kelvin Grove, Western Approach and Thirlmere Road.
- a greater compassion for those who feel marginalised in our society.
- a deeper unity between the churches.

FOOTSTEPS TO THE CROSS:

This Lent service led by the young people of our parish will be on next Friday, **27th March** at 7.15pm. 'Footsteps to the Cross' is a prayerful reflection based around the people Jesus met on his journey with his cross. Please come and support our young people. If you are at high school and would like to read, please contact Denise Lusk on 01244 379742.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS (PRIMARY) VACANCY:

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is looking to appoint to a full-time, permanent position, an Assistant Director of Schools who will support the Director of Schools. Salary circa £52,000-£62,000. Further details and an application form are available from the diocesan website: www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org and completed applications should be returned to the Director of Schools at damian.cunningham@dioceseofshrewsbury.org
The closing date is Thursday 2nd April.

ANNUAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH:

The Novena to St Joseph will take place from the **10th to the 18th March 2015** at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of the Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Fr. Liam Cummins MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead SL6 7HT or email novena@millmissionaries.com
Please see front or rear porch for more information.

EASTER FLOWERS:

There will be a collection after all Masses next weekend **28th/29th March** towards the cost of flowers to decorate the Church during the Easter season and the coming months. Thank you in advance for your continued generous support.

GIFT AID:

As the end of the financial year approaches those of you who contribute to the parish in the Gift Aid Scheme are reminded to ensure that you have paid enough income tax in 2014-15 to cover your donations.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:

The new envelopes for the tax year 2015-16, which begins on the weekend of **11th/12th April**, are available for collection from the rear porch. Any problems please ring David Savage 380626.

GIFT AID RENEWAL:

The Gift Aid Renewal Campaign in September last year resulted in the following increases in offertory donations:
Standing Orders increased by 34%
Weekly Envelopes increased by 12%
Loose Plate fell by 8%
The overall increase was 28%
Thank you to all of you who responded so generously.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:

Thank you very much for your generous response to the recent appeal on behalf of SPUC. A total of £465.81 was kindly donated.

PARISH THIRD WORLD PROJECTS:

We have recently sent off £300 to each of our parish projects – Fr. John Kirwan in DR Congo, the OAKS School in Bo, Sierra Leone, and Bro. James Kimpton for “Reaching the Unreached” in S. India. All these are registered charities. Thank you to everyone who contributes regularly via the wall boxes, standing orders, or by supporting coffee mornings. For further information please have a look at the Third World notice board in the front porch.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS' MEETING:

The final meeting for parents to discuss the Sacrament and how it will be celebrated takes place on **Monday 23rd March** at 7.00 p.m. in St. Werburgh's and St. Columba's School. Please try to attend this meeting.

THE CALL, THE JOURNEY AND THE MISSION:

Following the recent parish gathering with Fr. Cooke, to consider the invitation from the Bishops of England & Wales to reflect on “the Gift of Marriage and Family Life”, ahead of the Synod on the family in October, there have been several expressions of interest in forming groups to respond to the Bishops' invitation. Arrangements are being made to facilitate this and a further announcement will be made soon.

RED MISSION BOXES:

Could those Parishioners holding Red mission Boxes please leave them in the Sacristy for Margaret Curtis to collect. Thank you for your continued support.

FIRST AID KIT:

This is now in an alcove in the front porch. There is also a wheelchair, drinking water, cups, tissues, sick bowl etc. – if needed. Could we please ask anyone qualified to use these items to make themselves aware of their position, in case needed in an emergency?

ST. COLUMBA'S HALL BOOKINGS:

For all Hall bookings and enquiries please contact Sue Carr on 07553 114531
E-mail: columbashallbookings@gmail.com

ST WERBURGH'S GREAT WAR STUDY GROUP:

St Werburgh's parish are searching for photographs of all 120 of their fallen men (see www.stwerburghchester.co.uk). They only have 24 so far. They also need information about their parishioners who died during the Great War. If anyone has any information, however seemingly small, they would be very pleased. Contact Cheshire.historian@fsmail.net / tel. 01244 851717.

NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER:

This will be compiled by Bernard Payne
Tel: 01244 350323
Email: bernard.payne691@btinternet.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