

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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 25th DECEMBER 2014

MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve:

Vigil Mass 6.00 p.m.
First Mass of Christmas 9.00 p.m.

Christmas Day:

Dawn Mass 9.15 a.m.
11.00 a.m.

Feast of St. Stephen: 12.00 Noon.

Saturday: 9.15 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family:

Saturday Vigil 7.15 p.m.

Sunday 9.15 a.m.

11.00 a.m.

INTENTIONS:

Kevin Connolly.
James Chapman.

Eric Gerrard.
The Parish.

Austin Pinnington.

Brian Orris.

Maureen O'Hora and
Eileen Beck.

Patrick & Mary Regan.
The Parish.



A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

Fr. Cooke wishes the Parish a very
happy and blessed Christmas Season.

Thank you to everyone who has
worked so hard to prepare for the
great Feast of Our Lord's Birth.

We give a warm welcome to all our visitors to
St. Columba's over the Christmas period.

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.

BAPTISMS:

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

CONFESSIONS:

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

OFFERTORY (20-21st Dec.):

Loose Plate: £511.76
Planned Giving: £518.00
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.

GIFT AID TAX REFUND for 2013-14:

The total amount of income tax refunded by HMRC for 2013-14 was £11,041.36. This sum has been paid into the Parish's Central Fund at the Diocese. Many thanks to all of you who make your donations to the parish through the Gift Aid scheme.

UPTON CHURCHES PRAYER DIARY:

This week we pray for:

- The residents of Woburn Drive, Halton Road, Dorset Place and Cotswold Close.
- For the Youth Clubs and Youth workers in our churches.
- For all the young people in our community.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Please remember in your prayers: Samuel Joseph Kenyon, Margaret Hill, John Joseph Cox, John Thomas Williams, Desmond Joseph "Bob" Breen, John Williams, John Carney, Sean Backhouse, David Thomas Cross, John Ignatius Mitchell, Molly Massey, Connie Barlow, Maria Galvin, Nora Garry, Patrick Joseph Burke, John McLoughlin, Brigid Lynch, Terence Ogg, John Galvin, Eileen Burden, Florence Toop, Nellie Lennon, Elizabeth Mary Teresa Rimmer, Gerry Hickey, Mike Ayland, Carol Finan, Michael Grisdale, James Edward Price, George John, William John, Edward John, Doris McCleary, Ann Chesters, Thomas McGuinness, Frederick Nixon, Francis Wilkinson, Richard Bird, Paul Murphy, Marjorie Houlbrook, Elvet Roy Eaton, Joe Brickland, Mary Mitchell, Catherine Sheridan, Fred Beswick, Harry O'Koru, Eva McDonnell, Adam Barnhill, James Ball.

PRAYERS IN ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE:

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray in particular for the following:
Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

FEASTS OF THE WEEK:

In the week of the celebration of Our Lord's Birthday we also mark:

- Friday: **St. Stephen, First Martyr.** He was one of the seven deacons appointed by the apostles to look after the distribution of alms and to help in the ministry of preaching. He was stoned to death outside Jerusalem, his execution approved by Saul of Tarsus – later to become Paul the Apostle.
- Saturday: **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.** Author of the fourth Gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse. He was a witness to Christ's Transfiguration, and was present at the foot of the Cross where Jesus entrusted the care of his mother to him.

RED MISSION BOXES:

Could parishioners holding Red Mission Boxes please leave them in the Sacristy for Margaret Curtis to collect. Your box can be collected from the rear porch.

Thank you for your continued support.

CHESTER AND ELLESMERE PORT S.V.P TRIP TO WALSINGHAM:

The annual S.V.P. trip to Walsingham will take place on **Monday 13th April 2015** and return on **Thursday 16th April 2015**. A deposit of £75 will be required as soon as possible. If anyone wishes to go, please contact Brian Forrest on 01244 318863.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:

We would like to welcome **Claire Graham** as the newly-appointed Parish Safeguarding Representative. She will be working alongside the Diocese's Safeguarding Coordinator Andrew O'Brien on parish matters concerning children and vulnerable adults.

If anybody wishes to speak with Claire about safeguarding within the parish please see her contact details below:

07880553830 / senco@stwerburghscolumba.cheshire.sch.uk

Alternatively please see the Diocese Safeguarding Office contact information below:

cpva@dioceseofshrewsbury.org / 01516529855 / 07557731492-office hours & evening/weekend emergency.

PARISH BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

The Church Heating System – a few words of explanation

The church is large with a high ceiling so needs powerful heaters to heat it comfortably. The system uses an electronic timer and a thermostat currently set to 20 degrees. That is the general temperature to be achieved throughout the church but of course the temperature of the hot air blown out by the heaters has to be higher than that so the overall temperature reaches 20 degrees.

The fans in the heaters are powerful, to get the hot air to fill the church, so can be heard. Switching any heater off may cut down on the noise and hot air behind where anyone chooses to sit but is counter productive. Because the system is controlled by a thermostat, if one or more heaters are switched off all the others work harder to maintain the temperature. We know that the heater inside the left hand front door from the porch makes a particular noise at present and it will be attended to in the New Year. So ...

Please Do Not Turn Off The Heaters!

Thanks very much.

pauline.rourke@btinternet.com leech2000@btinternet.com

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA:

28th Dec. Marg & Geoff Hospice
4th Jan. Sewing Group

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

If you would like to support a charity by making coffee in the Hall after Sunday morning Mass please contact Margaret Curtis, 01244 318424.

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2015 CALENDAR:

Sue Carr reports that she has now sold no fewer than 175 of the Flower Festival Calendars – and the supply is now virtually sold out. Thank you all for your interest and support.

SHREWSBURY CATHOLIC VOICE:

The Advent/Christmas 2014 issue of the Diocesan magazine is available, price £1. This issue includes an item *Parish says thank you with flowers* about our 50th Anniversary Festival.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18th – 25th January, 2015:

Here in Upton, we will be marking the Week of Prayer at the alternative time, Pentecost. (17th -24th May). However, many parts of the county are coming together to celebrate the octave at its traditional January time. The service for Churches Together in Cheshire is being held at 6.00 p.m. on **Sunday, 25th January** at St. Mary's Parish Church, Nantwich, hosted by the Nantwich Christian Council. The preacher will be Bishop Mark. See poster in the porches and on the parish website.

ST COLUMBA'S HALL BOOKINGS:

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

E-mail: columbashallbookings@gmail.com

NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER (4th Jan):

This will be compiled by Alison Wrigglesworth
Tel: 01244 382457

Email alison.wrigglesworth@o2.co.uk

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