

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 2015

MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve:

Vigil Mass 6.00 p.m. Kevin & Frances Connolly.
First Mass of Christmas 9.00 p.m. Joan & Ron Wells.

Christmas Day:

Dawn Mass 9.15 a.m. Sean Backhouse A.
Mass of the Day 11.00 a.m. The Parish.

Feast of the Holy Family:

Saturday Vigil 7.15 p.m. Thanksgiving for a
Successful Operation.
Sunday 9.15 a.m. Patricia Howe &
Kathleen Tallon.
11.00 a.m. The Parish.

Monday: 9.15 a.m. Service of Word & Holy Communion

Tuesday: 9.15 a.m. " "

Wednesday: 9.15 a.m. " "

Thursday: 9.15 a.m. " "

Friday, Mary Mother of God: 10.00 a.m. Patrick Regan.

Feast of the Epiphany:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 7.15 p.m. Gavin Webster.
Sunday: 9.15 a.m. Helen Whitcombe
11.00 a.m. 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.

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, from 6.45 to 7.10 p.m. (prior to the Vigil Mass).

OFFERTORY (19-20th Dec.):

Loose Plate: £594.91
Planned Giving: £561.69
Average Weekly SOs: £683.00
Candles: £ 59.54

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.*

UPTON CHURCHES PRAYER DIARY:

This week we pray for:

- The residents of Woodlea Avenue, Cornwall Road and Aldford Road..
- For All Age Family Worship, Messy Church, Junior Church and Children's Liturgy..
- For all children who attended our churches each Sunday and their leaders.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Please remember in your prayers: Patrick Joseph Regan, Margaret Winterbottom, Eileen Josephine Donoughue, Ada Laura Savage, Sean Floyd, Harold Sweeney, Lawrence Stevens, 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, Thomas Edward Johnston, Jacobus Philips, Joseph Herbert Lucas, Evelyn Taylor, Harry Ralph, John Leonard, Teresa Helena Adams, Elizabeth Mary Kirk, John Steven Colgan, Mary Winifred Smith-White, Arthur Hindley, Kathleen Tallon, Teresa Bettridge, Veronica Howard, Rachel Gibson, Thomas Wall, Chris Speed, Patrick Peter Wilson, Jane O'Hora, Anne O'Loughlin.

RED MISSION BOXES:

Can those parishioners holding Red Mission Boxes please leave them in the Sacristy. You can collect your box from the table in the rear porch. *Thank you for your continued support.*

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS:

In the light of Fr. Cooke's impending retirement, Bishop Mark has now announced a number of appointments affecting St. Columba's and other Chester parishes:

- **Fr. Jonathan Brandon** (currently Parish Priest at Holy Angels, Hale Barns) moves to St. Columba's as Parish Priest to bring together the two parishes of St. Columba's and St. Theresa's Blacon - these eventually to be served by one priest. Fr. Jonathan will be resident at St. Columba's and his appointment takes effect from 7th February. He continues his work as Diocesan Vocations Director.
- **Fr. Isidore Madueke** (currently at St. Luke's, Frodsham) is appointed to assist Fr. Jonathan in the transition of the two parishes, and will be resident at Blacon. His appointment takes effect on 20th February.
- **Fr. Jim Kenny** (currently at St. Theresa's) takes over as Parish Priest of St. Luke's Frodsham with effect from 20th February.
- **Fr. Martin Onuoha** (currently at St. Clare's, Lache) moves to Holy Angels, Hale Barns as Parochial Administrator, with effect from 7th February.
- **Fr. Chukwemeka Nwachukwa** (currently at St. Michael and All Angels, Birkenhead) moves to St. Clare's as Parochial Administrator, with effect from 7th February.

Please keep the Clergy in your prayers as they prepare to take up their appointments, and may they receive the warmest of welcomes in their new parishes.

FR. COOKE'S LEAVING:

- If you would like to contribute to Fr. Cooke's Retirement Collection, envelopes are available this weekend and next weekend. It will be helpful if these are returned at the latest by Sunday 10th January. **There will be a "Farewell Gathering" in the Hall after the 11.00 a.m. Mass on Sunday 17th January.** All will be welcome at this gathering.
- Richard Curtis is compiling material regarding St. Columba's and Fr. Cooke during his time at the parish for use in a leaving book. If you have any photos, digital or developed (these can be scanned and then returned) or anything else that you think is appropriate, please get in touch with him at: rich.curtis89@yahoo.co.uk or 07787782255.

FEASTS OF THE WEEK:

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

- Saturday: **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.
- Monday: **Holy Innocents,** all those children under the age of two, martyred in Bethlehem at the time Jesus was born, on the word of King Herod.
- Tuesday: **St. Thomas Becket,** Archbishop of Canterbury murdered in his cathedral on this day in 1170 on the word of King Henry II.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND READERS ROTA:

Please ensure you pick up your new Rota from the table in the front porch. This Rota includes Lent. Carol will send out the Holy Week Rota later. Many thanks.

MISSION CALENDAR 2016:

The Mission Calendars are available in the front and rear porches of the church. Thank you for your continued support.

CHARITY CLASSICAL CONCERT FOR CHILDREN: "The Wheels on Debussy"

Join in a classical musical experience for both parents and children in a relaxed environment on **Sunday 27th December**, 3.00 p.m. at St Werburgh's Church. The programme will include solo performance and audience participation: seasonal singalong favourites plus music that captures the magic and mystery of Christmas. Soft drinks, mulled wine and mince pies to follow. All funds go to the Fergal O'Mahony Memorial Charity Foundation, supporting the development of young talented musicians.

Tickets £10 for 1 adult and 1 child, £2.50 for each additional child. They can be purchased online at: <https://billetto.co.uk/events/100252#sthash.i6edL0rn.dpuf>

VISITING CHOIR 3rd JANUARY 11.00 MASS:

Again this year, The Octavo Consort will be joining us for the 11:00 Mass on Epiphany Sunday 3rd January. The Octavo Consort is a group of young, experienced choral singers from Chester and elsewhere. They will sing the Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei from Palestrina's Missa Brevis and a motet during communion as well as joining the congregation for the usual hymns and carols at Mass. The Octavo Consort is directed by Tom Coxhead of this parish. After graduating last summer, Tom is now Organ Scholar at Ripon Cathedral.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO ROME FOR THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY:

Bishop Mark will lead a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year of Mercy from 17th -21st **October 2016.** We will visit the major Basilicas of Rome including passing through the Holy Door at St. Peter's. In addition there will be a General Audience with the Holy Father and a visit and Holy Hour at the Venerable English College. Flights are from Manchester and accommodation is on a half board basis with lunch included on the first day. The cost is £695 in a twin room or £565 in a triple room. A very limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement of £130. Numbers are restricted to 100 so early booking is recommended. Full information and booking forms can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website. Alternatively contact Fr. David Long on 0151 638 1520.

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 (3rd Jan):

This will be compiled by Rebecca Vaughan

Tel: 01244 350323

Email rebecca_vaughan@yahoo.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