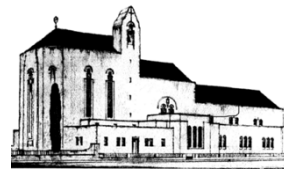


# THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT COLUMBA, ANFIELD



## **'MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: POINTING PEOPLE TO JESUS'**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

We extend a warm welcome to all who are joining us for worship today and especially to those who may be worshipping with us for the first time. St Columba's is an Anglican parish firmly rooted in the Catholic tradition. We strive to be Missionary Disciples who point others to Jesus Christ. Our worship is focussed on the presence and beauty of God – it is our prayer that you encounter Him here, today.

### **After Mass**

We hope that you will be able to stay for some refreshments and a chance to meet new friends.

### **We try to be a child-friendly Church.**

Please don't worry if your baby cries during the service, that's natural and it's what babies do. We run a Sunday School, 'Columba's Crew' on most Sundays, and your child is most welcome to participate. All our leaders are DBS checked. Should you wish to take your baby or a restless child out during the service, please feel free. At the back of church we have a selection of colouring/activity sheets and books for babies and small children.

### **About our Readings...**

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes. The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfilment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "... The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]." Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

# Who's who

## The Vicar:

Fr Daniel Howard SSC  
St Columba's Vicarage  
Pinehurst Avenue  
Anfield  
L4 7UQ  
0151 474 7231



## The Honorary Assistant Priest:

Fr Tom Allen  
0151 476 9705



## Churchwardens:

Mr Jeff Brandwood  
07947 673 447



Mrs Irene Campbell  
0151 263 5971



## Parish Reader:

Mr Adrian Manson



## Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Mrs Lynn Colgan

07815 884 878



*Please inform one of the clergy at any time of those who require the Last Rites.*

*If you have a safeguarding concern and you wish to talk to somebody, please contact the Vicar or the Parish Safeguarding Officer.*

**Find us online:**

[www.stcolumbaanfield.com](http://www.stcolumbaanfield.com)

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15202/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15202/)

Facebook: @columbaanfield

X: @columbaanfield

The parish email address is:

[stcolumbaanfield1@outlook.com](mailto:stcolumbaanfield1@outlook.com)

*If you wish to give by credit/debit card, please scan the QR code below:*



### **Food Pantry - Columba's Kitchen**

Setup: 1<sup>st</sup> Jan after Mass.

### **Christmas Flowers**

Cut off is TODAY after Mass.

### **St Paul's Chapel/outside Lady Chapel**

Following a collapse in the ceiling, the architect has advised that, until the plasterwork is completely removed, people to do not use this area for prayer. Please avoid it, and when returning to your seat after Communion, please do so quickly as more plaster may fall. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Confessions**

Will be heard on Tuesday evening from 6.00 pm. Please do think about doing this, preparing your heart for the coming of the Saviour! If this time is unsuitable an appointment can be made.

### **Christmas Prep & Cleaning**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, we will undertake church cleaning from 11.00 am. Please sign up for at the back of Church. Refreshments will be served.

### **Carol Service**

Today at 4.30 pm, bring a friend!

### **Christmas Services**

Please take a sheet with the Advent/Christmas Services on. Christmas is a great time of the year to invite friends to come with you. Who can you invite (pray in advance!)

### **Christmas Encouragement**

Please do make every possible effort to be in Church on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day for Mass. This is the second holiest day of the year after Easter and attendance, according to the Book of Common Prayer, is required for all Anglicans. Quite often we have more 'visitors' than regulars which misses the point entirely of coming to church the rest of the year if we do not celebrate his birth. So please come and celebrate the birth of the Saviour with joy. Be like the shepherds who make the trip to Bethlehem with haste. The new-born King wants you at his crib. See you then!

Services & Activities		
This week		
Day	Mass	Other Services/Activities
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b> <b>Advent IV</b>	<b>Mass, 9.00 am</b> <b>Parish Mass, 10.30 am</b>	Carol Service, 4.30 pm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December <i>Feria</i>	Mass, 10.30 am	Church Cleaning, 11.00 am.
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December <i>Feria</i>	Mass, 7.00 pm	Confessions, 6.30 pm
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>	<b>Family Crib Mass,</b> <b>4.00 pm</b> <b>Midnight Mass,</b> <b>11.15 pm</b>	
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>	<b>Parish Mass, 10.30 am</b>	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> December <i>S. Stephen</i>	Mass, 10.00 am	
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> December <i>S. John the Apostle</i>	Mass, 10.00 am	
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>The Holy Family</b>	<b>Parish Mass, 10.30 am</b>	

**Please pray for:**

**The sick:** Ellie, Vicky Goldie, Linda Campbell, Margaret Mousley, Michael Riddick, Jennifer Dowds, Pauline Skinner, Margaret Brooks, Joanne Robinson, Derek Smith, Sophie Leavesley, Tom Gregory, Fr Ray Bridson, Charlie Neill, Vincent Needham, Jean Gibson, Roger Johnson, Gladys Jump, Joanne Kerr & Irene Campbell.

**Recently Departed:** Robert McMullen, Joseph Smith & Dorothy McVey.

**Anniversary of Death:** Katie Louise Burke, Mark Evans, Anthony Holt, May Oulton, Elizabeth Fisher, Dot Ward, Teddy Curry, Howard Lyttle & Viv Turner.