

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

15th August 2021

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (B)

“Listen!

**I am standing at
the door
knocking.”**

Rev 3:20



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Fr Carl Mugan (PP)	0151 424 6641
Fr Mark Moran (PP)	0151 513 0024
Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 4021
Fr Bill Murphy	0151 495 1854
Fr Thomas Skeats, O. P.	0151 424 2738

PARISH WEBSITE: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Facebook: Parish of St Wilfrid Widnes

<https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridswidnes>

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Wednesday Word - <http://wednesdayword.org/parish/index.htm>

Catholic Pictorial - <http://www.catholicpic.co.uk/>

Reflection –

One of Blessed John Henry Newman's great maxims is, "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often." The parish of St Wilfrid's has certainly witnessed a lot of change over the past year or so. Not only have we experienced the disruption to our normal parish life by the pandemic restrictions, but some of our priests have been asked to move on to new assignments, while new priests have arrived, or are about to arrive.

Change is, of course, always a great challenge, but it is also a great opportunity. Think of our own lives. We often get things wrong or say things we regret, and it can be difficult to overcome these bad habits. But thankfully, we all have the capacity to change. Jesus calls us all to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. The Christian life is all about recognising that, while we may often fail, God is at work, transforming us by his grace and guiding us onwards to a share in Christ's resurrection.

As part of the change here in our parish, as one of your new priests, let me properly introduce myself. For the past 16 years I have been a member of the Order of Preachers, often known as the Dominicans. In fact, in the past week, Dominicans have been celebrating the anniversary of our arrival in this country exactly 800 years ago.

The first seven years of my Dominican life were spent studying in Dominican priories in Cambridge, Oxford and Rome. Study and the life of prayer are vital pillars of the Dominican life. One of our mottos is "*Contemplata aliis tradere*" which means "to pass on to others the fruits of contemplation". Prayer and contemplative study are meant to equip the Dominican for a life of ministry and service to the Church.

My own life of service as a priest began in 2010 at our priory in London, close to Hampstead Heath. I was resident there until last summer, apart from a year away in Durham completing a Master's Degree.

Continued ...

For the last six years of my time in London, I served as prior of the community and parish priest. During that time, our priory church was established as a shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary. In addition to parish and priory responsibilities, I also served as chaplain to two London universities - Imperial and Kings - and often travelled down to Oxford to teach in our student house.

One of my fondest memories as a newly ordained priest was the visit of Pope Benedict to this country in 2010. I was fortunate enough to concelebrate at the Beatification Mass for Cardinal Newman at Cofton Park in Birmingham. During his homily, the pope spoke about Newman's life in pastoral ministry and the qualities Newman thought should characterise the priest. The pope quoted from one of Newman's homilies: "Had Angels been your priests, my brethren, they could not have grieved with you, sympathized with you, have had compassion on you, felt tenderly for you, and made allowances for you, as we can; they could not have been your patterns and guides, and have led you on from your old selves into a new life, as they can who come from the midst of you."

As we face the future together and the changes it will bring, please pray for your priests as we work as one to preach the gospel and to build up the kingdom of God in this part of our country.

Fr Thomas O.P.

We pray for those who have died,

Margaret Houghton, Patricia Griffiths

Those who's funerals take place this week.

Anne Lake, Susan Shaw



This week the Blessed Sacrament Candle burns:

***St Basil's
St John Fisher***

***In memory of Marie Elizabeth Golson - Ann
In memory of Rita Hamilton***



THIS WEEK		The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (B)	
Saturday 14 th August	11am – 12pm	St Bede's	Confession
	5pm	St Michael's	Mass
	6pm	St Basil's	Mass
Sunday 15 th August	9am	St Michael's	Mass
	9am	St Bede's	Mass
	10am	St John Fisher	Mass
	11am	St Bede's	Mass
	4pm	St Bede's	Mass
WEEKDAYS		DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 4	
Monday 16 th August	9:30am*	St Basil's	Mass
	1pm	St John Fisher	Requiem Mass Anne Lake
Tuesday 17 th August	12 noon*	St Bede's	Mass
Wed 18 th August	7pm	St Michael's	Leaving Mass
Thursday 19 th August	12noon*	St Bede's	Mass
	10am	St Bede's	Requiem Mass Susan Shaw
Friday 20 th August	9.30am*	St John Fisher	Mass
*The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for 30 minutes before each Mass			

Tea and Coffee after Mass

One of the things that everyone has missed during the pandemic is the chance to meet safely together to share the friendships that we have as fellow parishioners. To chat over a cuppa after Mass was a wonderful way to do this also for new parishioners or visitors to our parish to feel welcome and valued.

So, from **5th September** can we start to offer this again after the Sunday Masses, a nice cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit?

Can the generous people who used to volunteer check their stores and ensure they have everything they need to get the kettle on!

It will be wonderful to be together again!

Thank you



CONFESSIONS

St. Bede's - 11am - 12 noon on Saturday

St. Michael's - 4.30pm - 4.55pm on Saturday (*starting Saturday 21st August*)

If you attend St. John Fisher or St. Basil's Church and you would like to avail yourself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation then you should approach one of the priests.

CALLING ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

As we slowly move into a new way of being normal, we need one Eucharistic Minister to assist to distribute the Sacred Host at Mass at the weekend.

ONLY if you would feel safe and comfortable to do this could you drop your name, e mail address and telephone number together with which Mass you could attend to the parish office as soon as possible and we will produce a rota.

Many thanks.

The Clergy Team

Congratulations to:

Daniel Hunt & Sarah Gandy who were married at St Bede's on Friday 6th

August and to

Paul Exton-McGuinness and

Julia Wells who were married at

St Bede's on Saturday 7th August.



Please keep them in your prayers.