

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

6th December 2020

Second Sunday in Advent (B)

**“Listen!
I am
standing at
the door
knocking.”**

Rev 3:20



Bishop John Rawsthorne 0151 424 4021

Fr Mark Moran 0151 513 0024

Fr Bill Murphy 0151 495 1854

Fr Carl Mугan (PP) 0151 424 6641

Fr Tom Neylon (PP) 0151 424 2738

St Wilfrid's Parish Office

St Bede's Presbytery

Appleton Village

Widnes, WA8 6EL

**The Parish Office is now
open for telephone enquiries**

0151 422 1772

Please email:

stwilfridswidnes@rcaolp.co.uk

NEW PARISH WEBSITE ADDRESS:

stwilfridswidnes.uk

Please keep looking at our website for up
to date news.

Office Manager

Heather Harrison

Parish Administrators

Susan Warburton

Shelagh Hindley

Pastoral Associate

Jessy Mottram-Noé

Follow us on Facebook:

Parish of St Wilfrid Widnes



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

Reflection – 2nd Sunday Advent

Many of you will realise that I love this time of year, I make no excuses for enjoying the lights, the Christmas trees and the usual bustle of life leading up to the Christmas celebrations. These things catch our eyes, they attract our attention and during these challenging times, the joy of light in the darkness has rarely been more important.

In our gospel this week, John the Baptist is attracting attention, even today we can follow his message as he cries in the wilderness. He comes with 'good news' something that seems to be lacking right now. The 'good news' that John brings isn't fleeting, and it's a message for everyone, no ambiguity, no confusion and certainly no tiers!

John's message is of hope, of one who is coming to bring joy and life into a world of fear and darkness. He reminds us today as he did in the desert that God has not forgotten us, that Jesus the Messiah is coming. He is coming into our troubled world, into our homes, into our lives and hearts, and into the hidden places we fear, to make all things new.

So, as we begin preparations for Christmas, stop for a moment and hear John's cry in the wilderness, because he is welcoming love, he is welcoming forgiveness and he is welcoming hope.

If you hear the doom mongers saying Christmas is cancelled this year, ignore them, because it can't be! No one can cancel the joy that it brings, the love that it shares (even over zoom) and the promise that Jesus as our Messiah brings to each of us. So, keep putting up those lights, cribs and Christmas trees, because our God is coming and let's prepare to celebrate.



Fr Carl

CAFOD Advent Prayer and Reflection

Are you looking for a chance to enjoy some quiet time... some prayer and reflection...in your own home? (Read below to find out all the details)

Every Sunday - from 29 November to 6 January, 6pm-6:30pm

[CAFOD Advent Prayer - A Journey to The Manger](#)

Join us for some simple and peaceful prayer and reflection as we share our journey of Advent together. We will gather around a candle and be gently led in a time of prayer. No need for a computer camera or microphone or worrying about what to say. Just register then click the link on Sundays through Advent and on Epiphany, the 6th of January. The prayer will start at 6pm and run for less than half an hour. All are welcome to join us on this journey.

[Register](#) to the series

Christmas cards for Jordan.....



Thank you to all who responded to the request to send in Christmas cards for *St Joseph's* and *The Beheading of St John the Baptist* parishes in Jordan. They have now been sent off to be distributed to fellow parishioners in Jordan as a continuing sign of our solidarity and prayerful support of each other as we journey towards the joy of Christmas....

How to access Mass

St Wilfrid's Widnes:

YouTube videos are being prepared so that you can participate in Mass.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC52-K27EaYwySzRmeP3f3eA>



Mass will be available each Sunday morning. Fr Mark will be saying mass for the second Sunday of Advent.

Across the Archdiocese:

New resources now available include:

- [Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent](#) (also available as an audio download).
- [Readings for Christmas.](#)
- [Week 13 in the series of 'Armchair Retreats' with Fr Denis Blackledge SJ.](#)
- [Key characters of Advent: John the Baptist.](#)

All can be accessed/downloaded at <https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/> or through <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/> by clicking on 'Prayer and Other Resources'.

Prepare the Future: Advent Reflections in the light of Fratelli Tutti – given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald MAfr

Following on from our Prepare the Future series given by Christine Allen - Director of CAFOD, Fr Diarmuid O'Murchu and Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald, we are delighted that once again Cardinal Michael will join us and give four reflections as part of an opportunity for Advent prayer and contemplation.

Cardinal Michael will be looking at four aspects of Advent in the light of Fratelli Tutti: Stay awake; Prepare a way for the Lord; Bearing Witness; "Get on with it, lass"; and inspiring us to encounter the Advent Christ in this time of uncertainty whilst heeding the call of Pope Francis to "Prepare the Future".

You are invited to join us for one or more "live" on Zoom on Mondays at 7pm – 7:30pm on 30 November, 7 December, 14 December, 21 December for a time of reflective prayer. The prayer and reflections will also be available on YouTube LiverpoolJ&P and Facebook. To receive the Zoom link please register via our Facebook Page [jpliverpooljp](#) or online at the [J&P website](#).

We pray for those who are sick

Fr Malcolm Prince

Michael McKewen

Emma Pender

If you know of someone who is sick & would appreciate their name being placed on the list, please contact the Parish Office on 422 1772. The name of the sick person will appear for 6 weeks, this can be renewed by contacting the Parish Office. ***We can only place names in the Newsletter with the written consent of the sick person.***

Wednesday Word

This could be a very helpful way of accessing the Sunday readings.

<http://wednesdayword.org/parish/index.htm>

CHURCH IS NOW OPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

Please note that the churches will be open half an hour before Mass starts. This is to allow for controlled and staggered arrival times and to allow us to record your names for contact tracing. Please consider this when making your plans and allow enough time.

CHURCH CAPACITY

Due to social distancing requirements, the maximum number of people allowed in each of our churches is greatly reduced. Once the maximum number has been reached, anyone else who arrives will not be able to enter the building. Our maximum capacities are as follows:

St Michael's	110	St Bede's	68
St John Fisher's	50	St Basil's	60

Please remember that there is currently no obligation to attend Mass. Also, you may consider attending Mass only **one day a week** to make space for others.

If you have any Covid 19 symptoms (i.e. a new, continuous cough) you must not attend church. Also, if you have tested positive for Covid 19 you must not attend church until you have recovered. This is for the safety of others.

We **MUST** wear face-coverings as we enter church and throughout Mass.

- Please use the hand sanitisers provided as you enter and leave church.
- If you have a device or missal with text for Mass you may bring this with you.
- A steward will direct you to a seat.
- Holy Communion will be given out at the end of Mass.
 - A steward will invite each row forward in a pre-determined order.
Please wait to be invited before leaving your bench.
 - Take your face covering down when the person in front of you is receiving.
 - Receive the host in your hand, step to the side, consume the host and then put your face covering back on.
 - Make your way slowly and reverently out of church, using the one-way system.

We may have to stop offering public worship at very short notice following Archdiocesan and Government advice.

Please note that the doors have to remain open during Mass to ensure adequate ventilation. This means it may be colder than we would like. Please wear a coat.



Medaille Trust Christmas Gifts



St. Wilfrid's continuing to work in solidarity with Medaille Trust...

Over these past few years our parish has forged strong links with Medaille Trust, who as we know support people who are victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. During Advent we usually have our Christmas Tree campaign which provides an opportunity, for those of us who feel able, to donate a wrapped-up Christmas gift for one of Medaille's clients by taking a tag from the Christmas tree and putting the tag on our gift before we bring it back to put under the tree.

This year we need to do things a bit differently to keep everybody safe...

If you would like/feel able to buy a gift for the Medaille clients simply look at the list below, select a gift and wrap it up, **ensure that you attach a label stating what the gift is**, then bring the gift to any of our four churches and place it in the box provided.

(All gifts need to be received by **Wednesday December 16th** to ensure safe transfer of goods in time for Christmas)

- + Sweets/chocolate
- + Snacks, such as popcorn/Pringles etc
- + Aroma therapy diffuser
- + Aroma therapy oils
- + Colouring books for adults + pencils or pens (The Works - seem to have best prices)
- + Wooden arts and crafts items (The Works seems' to be best place to get them from)
- + Paint and any other items for arts and crafts
- + Men's socks, sizes 6-8.5 or 9-12
- + Underwear Small/Medium/Large
- + Men's hats
- + Gloves medium/large
- + Men's Scarves
- + Men's toiletries gift set
- + Men's Slippers - medium/large
- + These are just suggestions....

Magda, (Service Manager for Medaille project), said ***'We will be very grateful for any presents gifted to us... God Bless you all'***



Synod News: Our next steps

Looking at the Proposals: Week Four

At this stage of the Synod all our Parish Synod Members have been tasked with hearing the voice of parishioners as together we share our thoughts and ideas on the proposals for each Synod theme.

One way in which each of us can do this is by looking through the proposals prayerfully to see what we are 'most drawn to'...

This weekend the proposals for *Theme Four*, '**Building community, nurturing belonging**', are attached to our newsletter for us to have a look at, ponder, reflect upon and talk about with those around us, or those with whom we are in contact via What's App, Facebook, telephone etc.

- ✚ Then the invitation is to see what your heart is most drawn to...
- ✚ Select 2 Affirmations
- ✚ Select 5 Proposals
- ✚ Simply indicate which proposals you select by putting down the number (i.e. 2.12, 2.17 etc) no need to type out the whole proposal
- ✚ Indicate the affirmations selected by naming the heading the affirmation comes under (e.g. Mission)
- ✚ Send them through to our parish synod members on this email address stwilfridsynod@gmail.com

Alternatively, if you would rather write down your choices, they can be posted through the letter box at the Parish Office (just place them in an envelope marked as 'Synod Proposals' and they will be passed on to Synod members).

This will enable our parish members to reflect upon what is shared before they each send through 2 discerned affirmations and 5 discerned proposals in early December. (Themes 2,3, and 4 will be posted out with the newsletter over the next three weekends).

Please take part if you can, every voice matters.

What is your heart drawn to?

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions have been allocated up to December. Any new Masses will be allocated as there is space in the individual weeks.

The following Masses will be said by the priests this week:

Parishioner of the Parish	Christopher George Henry (Latey dead)
James Halerow	Michelle Davies (Latey dead)
Kevin McCarthy Ann.	Elizabeth Glennon (Latey dead)
Caroline Edwards Ann.	May Randles (Latey dead)
Pat Moran LD	Catherine Pierce (Latey dead)
Margaret Joan Wilson	
Mgr. Charles Glass	
Pat Connor	
Thomas Jackson Ann.	
Theresa O'Connor	
Residents of all our care homes	
Winifred Halerow	
Robert Milliard LD	
Frances John Fearon	
Case & Kenny family	

We pray for those who have died

<i>May Randles</i>	<i>Catherine Pierce</i>
<i>Elizabeth Glennon</i>	<i>Michelle Davies</i>
<i>Christopher George Henry</i>	<i>Gail McDowell</i>
<i>Josephine Cleary</i>	<i>John McLoughlin</i>



TICKETS for MASS on CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, we have been thinking about the best way to ensure that our churches are safe places so that Mass can be celebrated in them.

So, if you would like to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day you will **NEED A TICKET** (*think Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory!*) The tickets will be available **NEXT WEEKEND** at the Church you would like to attend over Christmas. If you intend to come to *St Bede's* tickets can be collected from St Bede's Presbytery on Saturday 12th December from 11am – 12:30 pm and Sunday 13th December from 2pm – 2:30pm.

PLEASE...

1. Remember, one ticket is needed for each person who is coming to the Mass, there are no family tickets or plus 1's!
2. Only take a ticket if you are sure you will be attending, do not take one for someone who 'might' come. To accommodate as many people as possible please attend **either** on Christmas Eve **or** Christmas Day.
3. If you take a ticket and then realise you do not need one then please return it ASAP.
4. On the ticket there is a space for your contact details, please fill them in before coming to Church, this will speed up the 'Track and Trace' process.
5. Tell your family and friends not to just turn up to Mass without a ticket as they will be unable to come in.
6. If you forget your ticket you will be denied entry until the beginning of Mass and **IF** there are spaces you will be allowed in.

A massive thank you to the stewards who have volunteered and enabled us to offer so many Masses over these few days. We know that this way of organising things feels strange, but we are doing the best we can in very difficult circumstances.

Christmas Eve 24 th December	8pm	St Basil's
	8pm	St Bede's
	8pm	St John Fisher
	8pm	St Michael's
Christmas Day 25 th December	8:30am	St Basil's
	9am	St Bede's
	10am	St John Fisher
	10:30am	St Michael's
	11:15am	St Bede's

Readers for Christmas Masses

Calling all readers... if you are attending one of the Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas day and would like to read at the service please can you contact the office to volunteer?

Please either e-mail, telephone or drop a note through the presbytery door and tell us your name and which Mass you would like to read at.

You will still need a ticket for the service obtained in the usual way.

Thank you



Foodbank is continuing to operate in these difficult times and would like to thank everybody for their generous support.

Widnes Foodbank gratefully receives donations of any food items but would particularly welcome donations of the following food items:

Sponge Puddings

Tinned Potatoes

Jam

Crisps

Christmas Treats

Shower Gel

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Items can be taken to the Widnes Foodbank Warehouse, which is at Widnes Cemetery Lodge, Birchfield Road, Widnes WA8 9EE. The Warehouse is open on ***Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.30am to 11am.***

Items can also be left at the Widnes Foodbank collection points at the main Widnes stores of ASDA, Morrison's and Tesco.

In addition, there are a number of other collection points shown on the Widnes Foodbank website (www.widnesfoodbank.org.uk), which include Appleton Village Pharmacy and Cronton Garden Centre.

As well as the Widnes Foodbank website information on Widnes Foodbank can be found on the following social media sites: -

facebook.com/WidnesFoodbank

twitter.com/Widnes Foodbank

instagram.com/WidnesFoodbank

Thank you to anyone who can make a donation.

THIS WEEKEND		SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)	
Saturday 5 th December	11-12 noon	St Bede's	Confession
	5:00pm	St Michael's	Mass
Sunday 6 th December	9:00am	St Michael's	Mass
	10:00am	St John Fisher	Mass
	11:00am	St Michael's	Mass
	4:30pm	St Basil's	Mass

WEEKDAYS		DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 2	
Monday 7 th December	9:15am	St Michael's	Mass
Tuesday 8 th December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	11:30am	St Bede's	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	12 noon	St Bede's	Mass
Wednesday 9 th December	7:00pm	St Michael's	Novena Mass
Thursday 10 th December	11:30am	St Bede's	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	12 noon	St Bede's	Mass
Friday 11 th December	9:15am	St Michael's	Mass

NEXT WEEKEND		THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)	
Saturday 12 th December	11-12 noon	St Bede's	Confession
	5:00pm	St Michael's	Mass
Sunday 13 th December	9:00am	St Michael's	Mass
	10:00am	St John Fisher	Mass
	11:00am	St Michael's	Mass
	4:30pm	St Basil's	Mass

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool is committed to keeping your personal data secure. Please see our Privacy Notice on our website at liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacy-notice

Funerals

Please remember in your prayers,

Michael Noon

David Staniford

Elaine McPartland

Ann Kerrigan

whose funeral took place last week.

