



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

*Incorporating the churches of St Bede, St Michael,
St John Fisher and St Basil*



Second Sunday of Lent (Year C)

16th March 2025

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Psalm Response

'The Lord is my light and my salvation'

Go to Joseph

On Wednesday, we take a break from Lent, as we venerate St Joseph. According to our Catholic tradition, there are four levels of 'reverence'. The first is 'latria' which means 'adoration' or 'worship' and is the reverence we reserve to God-the Holy Trinity, alone. So, when we genuflect before the Tabernacle, when we bow to the Altar, or when we go to adoration, that's 'latria'. The second level is 'hyperdulia', which means 'hyper-veneration' and is the special reverence we have for the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. After that there is 'protodulia', which means 'first veneration', the reverence we have for St Joseph, who as the earthly father of the Christ, enjoys a premier place among the saints. The last is 'dulia', the reverence we have for the rest of the saints, whom we venerate as the friends of God.

From this we can see two truths. Firstly, despite what many protestants and others declare, we do not worship the Virgin Mary or the saints. Our tradition tells us that we only worship God, while we venerate the saints. Secondly, it shows us just how important St Joseph is.

We would do well to give him 'first veneration' after Mary. In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St Joseph to be the 'Universal Patron of the Church'. Thus, Joseph is our patron, YOUR patron. Go to him! I can't begin to tell you how much I love St Joseph. He is my unfailing helper, protector and advocate. There have been many occasions in my life, when St Joseph has just 'sorted things out'. Let me tell you, if you pray to Joseph, you will not be left unaided. So, do come along to Mass next Wednesday morning and seek his intercession. He is so close to Our Lord and will whisper your request into the ear of the Child Jesus. May St Joseph, our holy protector and advocate, intercede for us, the Church, his Holy Family on earth today.

Fr Peter.

Knock Pilgrimage Meeting - 14th – 17th October 2025

There will be a meeting for all those who are coming to Our Lady's Shrine in Knock later this year. The meeting will be on **Wednesday 19th March** at 7.30pm in **St. John Fisher Church**. At this meeting you will fill out a booking form and be asked to pay £200 deposit per person, either in cash or with a cheque payable to 'Northern Star' or via bank transfer. Also please bring either a passport or a recognised ID as this will be needed for travel.

The total cost for the pilgrimage is £550 for a sharing room and £640 for a single room. The itinerary will be discussed at the meeting and all questions (hopefully!) answered. Thank you.

Walsingham – just a note to say that as we are going to Knock this year, we will not be going on pilgrimage to Walsingham – we don't want to get too holy! **Susan Warburton and Fr. Mark**

Parish Office Opening Hours

Please note that next week the parish office will be open only from **9.30am till 1.30pm** due to staff holidays. Thank you for your understanding.

Gift of Life for Zambia Trip to Oswaldtwistle Mill with a tour of the Ribble Valle

Shopping galore! High street bands, independent concessions, home, giftware, fashion department, garden St, four restaurants and more. An afternoon tour of the beautiful Ribble Valley is included with a knowledgeable guide of the area.

The date is Wednesday, 26th March leaving St. Basil's at 9.30.am and returning at approximately 6.30.pm. The cost is £24. To book, put your money in an envelope marked with your name and telephone number and pass it to either Monica (0151 424 8194) or Angela (0151 424 8668). Or call them for further information. All profits to Gift of Life for Zambia.

Mary's Meals

A Mary's Meals 'Loose Change Collection' will take place throughout Lent. This will be starting on Ash Wednesday 5th March to Easter Sunday. Boxes to take home for the collection will be available to pick up at the back of all four churches. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Elaine and Nina, (Mary's Meal coordinators)

Parish Choir

We will be practicing music for the Easter Services at the times listed below. As usual, if you have not sung before, or not sung for years, or haven't been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally, it doesn't matter, you would be most welcome.

Sadly though, at this time, all members of the choir must be over 18 due to safeguarding guidance. Our practices for Easter are on **Tuesday 25th March, Monday 31st March, Tuesday 8th April, all at 7pm in St. John Fisher Church.**

Pause For Thought - Our Lenten Journey 2025 - Week 2: Prayer

As a parishioner of St. Wilfrid's could we commit to reflecting on the weekly Gospel before Mass each Sunday? Could we once a week set aside time to reflect on the Stations of the Cross? CAFOD website has published Stations of the Cross for 2025. There is also an option to sign up for a weekly Gospel reflection and prayer issued each Friday. www.cafod.org.uk

'Jesus' path is a different one: Jesus triumphs through humiliation, the humiliation of the Cross. Jesus shows what happens after the Cross, what awaits us, all of us: this glory and this heaven'

Pope Francis

Unfailing prayer to St Joseph

Oh, St Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St Joseph do help me by your powerful intercession (make request now) and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us. *Say for nine mornings. It has never been known to fail.*

Supporting our Restoration Work

In your newsletter or at the back of Church there is a brochure of ways that you can support the restoration work at St. Bede's Church. The responsibility for the restoration is held by every parishioner across our entire parish. There are different projects to offer help with and your generosity is sought and appreciated as we move into the next phase of work shortly after Easter. If you would like further information, please feel free to talk to any member of the Building and Finance Committee: John Tully, Michael Wilcox, Susan Warburton, Fr. Mark, Peter McCann, Fr. Peter, Wayne Murray and Dcn. Paul Rooney. St. Wilfrid – pray for us!

Prayers for the Children of our Parish

Please remember in your prayers the children on the Sacramental Programme as this week they will celebrate their First Reconciliation, their First Confession. This is a wonderful time for the children as they experience forgiveness in a brand-new way! God bless them all.

Lenten Journey

Monday 17th March at 7pm at St. John Fisher Church – Holy Hour 'Jesus, the Healer'

Tuesday 18th March at 12.30pm at St. John Fisher Church – Scripture Group

Wednesday 19th March at 7am at St. John Fisher Church – Early Riser Mass

Friday 22nd March at 1pm at St. Basil's Church – Stations of the Cross

Easter Raffle

At the back of all churches there are books of raffle tickets which we urge you to take and sell to your family and friends in aid of all our churches. This raffle promises wonderful prizes to the winners. Please support our parish and our Grand Easter Raffle! Please return the stubs and the money to the Parish Office or give to the sacristans in each our churches and they will get them to the Parish Office for you. Many thanks!

Easter Lilies

Would you like to buy a lily for Easter? These flowers are often bought in memory of a loved one and their names are displayed in each of the Churches for the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday. They cost just £5 each. **There are envelopes and forms at the back of all churches that should be completed and returned to the Parish Office before Friday 11th April.**

The Knights Choir

The Knights choir would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made donations for its services in 2024. As a result, we were able to pass on four gifts of £1,000 each to local good causes. We hope to be of service to the community into the future and look forward to your continued support.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	16th March	Second Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Brenda Weir
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Therese Ambrose
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Martin Wynne
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
Monday	17th March	Feast of St Patrick	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Peter Golson Sr
19.00	Holy Hour – Jesus, The Healer	St John Fisher	
Tuesday	18th March	Lent Feria	
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12noon	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Margaret Palin
Wednesday	19th March	Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of BVM	
07.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Stephen Fallon
11.45	Requiem Mass	St John Fisher	Brian Hobson
Thursday	20th March	Lent Feria	
14.00	Funeral Service	St Michael	Maureen Robinson
Friday	21st March	Lent Feria	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Brian Grady
Saturday	22nd March	Third Sunday of Lent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Joseph Dann
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Irene Glynn Margaret Platt
Sunday	23rd March	Third Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mary Bebbington
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Maria Plant
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Anne Clarke
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Natividad Nituan

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Alex Standen
St Basil:	Special Intention
St John Fisher:	Special Prayer
St Michael:	Teresa & Frank Molloy

Rest in Peace

Colin Worsley, David Roberts,
Patricia Fallon, Margaret Jean Clark,
Margaret Colford, John O'Garra,
Derek Hughes, Mary Haynes
& Anthony Nightingale
May the Angels lead them into Paradise!