



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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

Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

**This week's collection is for The Catholic National
Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady.
Second Collection Next Week – Nugent Care**



23rd March 2025

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Psalm Response

'The Lord is compassionate and gracious'

'Full of Grace'

On Tuesday, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. We will be present to the moment, as we consider Jesus incarnate in the womb of Mary.

Now, in the Bible, when someone is given a mission, they often get a new name. In Genesis 17:1–5, Abram is renamed 'Abraham' (which means 'father of a multitude') as he receives his mission to be our father in faith. A few verses later, his wife Sarai is renamed 'Sarah' (which means 'princess') in light of her important status as a matriarch. In Genesis 32:28, after physically wrestling with God, Jacob is renamed 'Israel' (which means 'he wrestles with God') as he receives the same promise afforded to Abraham. In Numbers 13:16, Hoshea is renamed 'Joshua' (which means 'the LORD is salvation') in light of his role as successor to Moses. In 2 Samuel 12:24-25, the young Solomon is given the name 'Jedediah' (which means 'beloved of the Lord') as the destined King of Israel. In the New Testament, in Matthew 16:13-20, Simon is renamed 'Peter' (which means 'rock') in light of his future mission as the first Pope.

When the Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she is to be the Mother of God, it could be said that she receives a new name too. Some would argue, that the special word used by the Angel to address Mary, is in fact a new name. Following the tradition of the People of Israel, the greek word; 'kecharitomene' (which means 'one who is and always was full of grace') could be a new name for Mary. For the reason that she was chosen by God, even before she was born, but also for the reason she physically bore God in her womb, she is 'full of grace'. As 'Daughter of Zion', and the new 'Ark of the Covenant' she stands in the tradition of Israel. Mary's exalted status is tied to the person of her Son. She reflects Jesus Christ, like a mirror, to us. She is not grace itself, but is rather filled with Grace, filled with the love of God. May the same grace of God be poured out upon us afresh!
Mary, Full of Grace - pray for us!

Fr Peter

18-35's Group

Our parish young adults group meets this **Sunday 23rd March**, 6pm-8pm at St Bede Presbytery (next to the Church). For the first part of our gathering we will pray with and reflect on a bible passage (a form of prayer known as 'Lectio Divina'). For the second part of the evening, we will share some wine and cheese, with a Quiz. So, if you are 18-35, come along! Please pray for our young adults, the future of this parish.

St Bede's Garden Update

Volunteers have been busy over the winter restoring the grounds. Trenches dug to preserve the walls from tree roots. Shrubbery removed and ground levelled. Trees pruned and planted and borders re-aligned and laws extended and edged. Tree stumps removed and 230 hollies planed around the perimeter. Logs cut from trees will benefit wildlife with birdboxes erected. Chicken wire fixed to fences to reduce litter. Wildflowers and ornamentals planted for year-round colour. This project will reduce workload enhancing St Bede's. Thank you to all who give of their time to benefit us all.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass is an annual event when the Archbishop, the priests and the people gather in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King – it is an occasion when we see the Church in the Archdiocese of Liverpool united. At this Mass the Sacred Oils that are used throughout the Archdiocese throughout this year, are blessed and the priests renew their promises of ordination. We shall organise a coach to take us to the Cathedral, it will leave St. Bede's Church at **6pm** on **Wednesday 16th April** and return around 10pm.

If you would like to come on the coach, please pass your name and an offering of £5 per person into the Parish Office asap. There is always a great turnout from St. Wilfrid's Parish for the Chrism Mass so please get your name down for the coach!

St. Wilfrid's Union of Catholic Mothers Events

Please come and support our parish UCM!

Monday 24th March at 1.30pm – Easter Bingo, Parish Hall at St. John Fisher, admission £1.

Saturday 5th April after the 6pm Mass – Booksale and Refreshments served in the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher.

Jubilee Pilgrimage – Easter Monday, 21st April 2025

Leaves St Mary's, Priory Street, WA1 2NS at 9:30am after Mass, reaching the shrine of St. Anne and Bld. Dominic Barberi in Sutton at approximately 4pm.

Pilgrims would need to wear supportive footwear and suitable clothing and carry necessary water and food for a full day outside, whatever the weather.

If you would like to join in the walk, please complete the application form which are at the back of all churches and post them through the letterbox of the Parish Office and we shall forward them to St. Mary's. Further details, contact Michael Hall 07854994460 m.hall@talk21.com or Alison Kahn 07840072641 penketh.kahns@gmail.com

Lenten Journey

Monday 24th March at 7pm at St. John Fisher Church – Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 25th March at 12.30pm at St. John Fisher Church – Scripture Group

Wednesday 26th March at 7am at St. John Fisher Church – Early Riser Mass

Friday 28th March at 1pm at St. Basil's Church – Stations of the Cross

Lenten Holy Hour – 'Word Made Flesh'

On **Monday 31st March at 7pm at St. Basil's Church** there will be a Holy Hour offered reflecting on Jesus, the Word made Flesh. Please come and spend some time in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Warrington and Widnes Deanery Mass

On Friday we welcome the priests and people of our deanery to Mass at **12noon** on **Friday 28th March** at **St. John Fisher Church**. All are encouraged to attend this Mass and pray for our whole deanery and our mission to build the Kingdom of God here in this place.

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 of 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.**

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!

Our Lenten Journey 2025 – Week3 - Community and welcome

As a parishioner of St. Wilfrid's could we commit to get to know one another a little better? Is there someone who you see every week at Mass but have never spoken to? Could we offer the hand of friendship and welcome them more freely? This week at Mass could we introduce ourselves to someone new and continue to build our parish community?

'We are a community of brothers and sisters of Jesus, sons and daughters of the same Father. In the Church there is room for everyone. The Lord does not point his finger but opens his arms. 'Pope Francis

CAFOD Soup and Supper Evening

Part of our Lenten practices should be to share '*your bread with the hungry*' – we shall have a time of prayer and a shared supper at the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher on **Thursday 10th April at 7pm**. A delicious supper will be provided and sometimes we have cakes too (if you have given them up for Lent, you are allowed on this evening!), then you are asked to donate what you have saved and donate the money to CAFOD which will be added to our Lenten Fast Collection.

If you would like to come, please give your name into the Parish Office by Friday 4th April so that we can prepare food for everyone! Please come for a lovely evening together as a parish family!

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.**

Parish Liturgy

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
Monday	24th March	Lent Feria	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	John Heaton
19.00	Stations of the Cross	St John Fisher	
Tuesday	25th March	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Anne Follon
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Colin John Worsley
Wednesday	26th March	Lent Feria	
07.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Peggy Boden
11.45	Requiem Mass	St John Fisher	David John Roberts
Thursday	27th March	Lent Feria	
11.00	Funeral Service	St Basil	Patricia Margaret Fallon
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Barbara Hyman
Friday	28th March	Lent Feria	
12noon	Deanery Mass	St. John Fisher	Margaret Houghton Vera McArdle
Saturday	29th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Parishioners
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Pamela Robinson
Sunday	30th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jim Norris
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Sarah Loftus
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Michelle Spencer (Adams)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Breslin

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Ray Johnson
St Basil:	Madge Houghton
St John Fisher:	Jimmy Finnegan
St Michael:	Anne Conroy

Rest in Peace

Anthony Nightingale, Margaret Jean Clark,
Michael Twist, Margaret Colford,
John O'Garra, Derek Hughes,
Ray Johnson & Anne Conroy

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!