

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

CHRISTMAS /NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

"Listen!

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

Rev 3:20



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

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Happy Christmas from the Parish Clergy!

'For a child is born to us, a son given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder Counsellor, God Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace'

As we approach the crib once more to see Jesus lying in the manger, we reflect upon the year that has been. So much has happened in the world and in our own community; we have adapted and changed in all that we have done to keep safe and healthy and, in all things, we have praised the Living God in spirit and in truth.

So many people work so hard all year round to ensure that our parish is alive and a beacon of hope, love and forgiveness in our community. Thank you to all who work so hard for the good of us all.

So, we approach a New Year, 2022, and we do not know what that year will bring; but we face it filled with confidence as this whole season reminds us afresh, we know that He is with us, Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us! We can face all things with Him!

May God bless you all, and your families this Christmas and always.
With our thanks and assurance of prayers,

+ John, Fr. Bill, Fr. Thomas O.P., Fr. Thomas and Fr. Mark.



On behalf of Trinity Safe Space Charity and A Better Tomorrow CiC we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your overwhelming generosity during the Advent appeal this year.

The quality items filled 3 cars to the brim!

We have started giving some out to individuals and households this week and will continue until after Christmas, telling everyone where the gifts have come from.

We have been met with such gratitude and surprise from our 'friends', who have so little, and many utterances of "God bless you".

Such a heart-warming way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and put our faith into action. Thank you so, so much - you have made many people's day!

Pauline Ruth - Chair of Trustees of Trinity Safe Space Charity

Christmas Message of The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

Christmas is a special time, and at the heart of our celebrations is the fact that God became man for us. Two thousand years ago there wasn't a feast of Christmas yet there was still expectation as people longed for the coming of the Messiah to transform their lives. We don't always get what we expect at Christmas and two thousand years ago people didn't expect that the Messiah would be born in poverty, to a refugee family forced to leave their home to take part in a census for an occupying power. Homeless, with nowhere to stay they found refuge in a cold, dark stable with only the farm animals for company. Yet lives were about to be transformed.

I am sure celebrations were far from the minds of shepherds on a cold, bleak hillside and yet suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them, there was light, and glory shone around them – no wonder they were terrified. The first words of the angel to them were 'Do not be afraid...' as they went full of joy to Bethlehem to greet the new born king. So many of us need those words of the angel today: 'Do not be afraid...' Weighed down with the cares of life we fear for the future, but Christmas gives us hope as we know that Christ is with us. The Prince of Peace comes to us to bring his peace and healing and to give us hope.

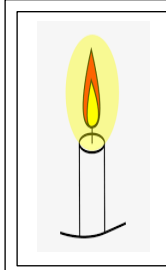
Christmas is a time for precious memories too. Memories of Christmases past - maybe recent or long ago. Memories of loved ones, just by thinking of them we are saying, 'we love you...you are still with us in our hearts'... There may be tears too, 'Do not be afraid' of them, they are fine because they are a sign of love.

The message of peace and goodwill means it is a time for us to reach out to others, especially to those in need. So many people work in the weeks before Christmas to help those in greatest need. We see people giving up their time to feed the hungry, and to provide a place of refuge for those who are lonely. Those who work in our essential services are there for us too. During the pandemic we have renewed our spirit of care and generosity – we have reached out to others and offered them hope and readily give thanks to those who care.

For Christians the joy of Christmas is found in the Eucharist and the crib. We give thanks to God for the gift of his Son who cried out from the manger to remind us of the continuing plight of the homeless, refugees and those escaping terror. When we gather as far as restrictions allow us, we remember what it is to be a family no matter how few we are or how distant we are from each other. The Holy Family was only three people yet proved to be the source of a great love which has overflowed into our lives two millennia later. May our families have the child Jesus at their centre as a source of love and a true source of strength

May this Christmas time be happy, blessed and peaceful.

**The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool
December 2021**

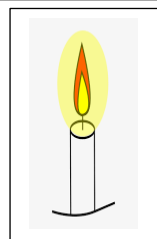


This week the sanctuary lamp burns for:

St Bede: Jason Ford
 St Basil: Bernard Kelly
 St. Michael: Dec'd members - Lees Family
 St. John Fisher: Bobby and Nina Spofforth



Sunday 26 th Dec Feast of The Holy Family	9.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	Holy Mass (<i>St Basil</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Michael</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>)	Chris Ostick - Sick Norah & Robert Warren – Rem' Mary Albert & Tony Clark – Ann' Bobby Spofforth - Anniversary
Monday 27 th Dec Feast of St John	12 Noon	Holy Mass (<i>St Basil</i>)	Kenny Case – Family & Friends
Tuesday 28 th Dec Feast of The Holy Innocents	12 Noon	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>)	Maria & Frank Hurst – Anniversary
Wednesday 29 th Dec Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury	12 Noon	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>)	Robert Milliard
Thursday 30 th Dec Sixth Day of the Octave Nativity	12 Noon	Holy Mass (<i>St. Michael</i>)	Arthur Hewitt
Friday 31 st Dec Seventh Day of The Octave Nativity	12 Noon	Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>)	Marie Cullerton – Anniversary
Saturday 1st Jan Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	10.00am 5.00 pm 6.00pm	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Basil</i>)	John Scott – LD Emma Brady – 11 th Anniversary Renee Foote – LD



This week the sanctuary lamp burns for:

St Basil: Bernard & Kathleen Buckle
 St Bede: Monica & John Kerr
 St Michael: Vocations to the Priesthood
 St John Fisher: Archbishop Malcolm



Sunday 2 nd Jan 2 nd Sunday after Christmas	9.00am 10.00am 10.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Michael</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>)	Parishioners Agnes Kennedy – LD Honora Lowe – LD George Edward Lythgoe Mary Catherine & John Cosgrove Anniversary
Monday 3 rd Jan Weekday Of Christmas Time	9.00am 9.10am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Holy Mass	Residents of Care Homes
Tuesday 4 th Jan Weekday Of Christmas Time	11:00am 11.30am 11.40am 12 Noon 1:30pm	Funeral Service (<i>St Basil</i>) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Rosary Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Funeral Requiem (<i>St Bede</i>)	Brian Anderson Michael O’Grady & Patrick Hyland Birthday Remembrance Elaine Varley
Wednesday 5 th Jan Weekday Of Christmas Time	6.30pm 6.40pm 7:00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Evening Prayer Holy Mass (<i>St. Bede</i>) Vigil Mass for Epiphany	Monica O’Mahoney - Anniversary
Thursday 6 th Jan Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord Holy Day of Obligation	9:30am 9:30am 11:00am 12.15pm	Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Basil</i>) Funeral Requiem (<i>St Michael</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Michael</i>)	Parishioners Special Intention Rita Fagan Denis O’Neil – Birthday Remembrance
Friday 7 th Jan Weekday after the Epiphany	9.00am 9.10am 9:30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Holy Mass (St John Fisher)	Madaline Dwyer - Anniversary
Saturday 8 th Jan Weekday after the Epiphany	10:00am 5.00pm 6:00pm	Holy Mass & Confession (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Basil</i>)	Monica & John Kerr – Rem’ Mary Rimmer – Anniversary Fred & Mary Murphy – Ann

