



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

26th January 2025

Parish Office:
St Bede's Presbytery
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Parish Clergy:

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Psalm Response

'Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life'

Catholic Relevance In The World

As I write this reflection at the start of the week, ahead of publication of the newsletter, the world is seeing some big changes. I'm thinking particularly about Donald Trump entering a second term in the White House. It moved me to reflect on his appointment, especially as I represented a Scottish government agency against him in a public inquiry before his first term as President.

His re-election got me thinking and wondering, 'does religion still play a role in world affairs?' It's true that since ancient times, religious beliefs and practices have been a powerful force in shaping morality, justice, values and the things that influence a society. But I wondered, does this still apply, particular in the USA, the most powerful nation on Earth?

About one-in-five adults in the USA are Catholic and Catholicism has long been one of the nation's largest religious groups. John F. Kennedy was the only Catholic president until Joe Biden was sworn in January 2020. Donald Trump used to describe himself as a Presbyterian, but he said in an October 2020 interview that he no longer identifies as a Presbyterian: "I now consider myself to be a nondenominational Christian." Almost all the USA's presidents have been Christians, and many have been Episcopalians or Presbyterians, with most of the rest belonging to other prominent Protestant denominations.

Catholics believe that participating in society is important because it allows them to serve others, promote justice and work to create a more peaceful world. The Gospel's message is clear: how we do in this world will depend a lot on how we treat the least of our brothers and sisters (Matt 25:40). As humans, we are social creatures by nature. By our nature, we must participate in public life to attain the common good of society and give glory to God (1 Peter 2:13-17).

We must work with the Holy Spirit to restore Catholic relevance in secular society because, if we don't, nothing will change.

Deacon Paul

Eucharistic Ministers

Some ministers have asked for some clarification on a few points surrounding the ministry. There is a short letter to be collected from the sacristy from the Clergy Team which we hope will help. Please collect one this weekend.

Thank You's

From all of us here at Our Lady's a huge thank you to Father Mark, Father Peter and all the wonderful Parish of St Wilfrid for their very kind donation of £275.00 from their Advent Fundraising. This money will be really helpful, and we will use it to help with the delivery of the RE curriculum. Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Staff and Children.

We would like to thank you for your very kind donation to our school. With the donation we have been able to purchase Bibles so that we can spread the word of God in all our classrooms across the school. We are using the rest of the money towards booking a coach to take us to St John Fisher Church in Lent to celebrate Mass with Fr Mark and the parishioners.

God bless. Mr Landrum and the children at St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School.

The pupils and staff would like to send their sincere thanks to the parishioners of St. Wilfrid's for their very kind and generous donation to our school. Thank you for thinking about us during the Advent season. We can assure you the money will be very well spent on RE resources within school. We are looking to provide new stations of the cross for our outdoor prayer garden and additional books and posters for our classrooms. The money you have kindly donated will be used to help create these RE displays around school. With sincere thanks and gratitude Mr. Loughran, St Michael's.

A big thank you to Father Mark and all the Parishioners for the very generous and much valued donation of £275 from the Advent Fundraising. This is so appreciated. The money will go towards RE resources and delivery of RE. Thank you so much. St Bede's Infants.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 14th – 21st May 2025

Information for all those joining the Pilgrimage to Medjugorje in May...

Transport to and from the Airport - As promised we now have details of the cost of a return trip by coach to Manchester Airport. It would be nice for us all to travel together and the cost for the return coach journey would be **£31pp**. If less people travel on the coach, then the cost will increase.

So that the coach can be booked can you please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to travel on the coach. Either telephone the Parish Office and leave a message for me or drop a note into the office for my attention. The outbound flight time is **12.55pm**.

Passports - can everyone please check that their passport has six months left, before expiry, after the date we return. You need to calculate from the date the passport was issued not the expiry date.

Susan Warburton

Parish Choir

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 next practice is on **Tuesday 28th January at 7pm** in St John Fisher Church.

St. Basil's Music Ministry - Please join us in the preparing music for Lent to be sung at St. Basil's on **Tuesday 28th Jan, 11th Feb and 25th Feb - 7pm to 8pm** in St. Basil's Church. All welcome.

Archdiocesan Celebration of the Miraculous Cure of Jack Traynor

Following the announcement in December of the miraculous cure of John (Jack) Traynor, the Archdiocese of Liverpool will be celebrating this historic moment with Mass followed by a drink's reception at the **Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Tuesday 18th February at 7pm.**

We are hoping to offer a coach to take us to the Cathedral for this historic event, the coach will leave St. Bede at approx. 5.45pm and return after the drink's reception. There may be a cost towards the coach, but it will be kept to a minimum. As this parish has a deep devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes it would be good to be well represented at this wonderful Mass. If you would like to come, **please pass your name and telephone number** into the Parish Office asap. Once we have an idea of numbers we shall move forward.

Sacramental Programme 2025

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Parents Meetings

To enroll your child onto the Parish Programme you need to attend the following meeting. The Sacramental Programme is for children who are in Year 4 and have been baptised as Roman Catholic.

Sunday 26th January

Non-Catholic School – 10.15am Mass and Enrolment after Mass in **St. Michael's Church.**

Tuesday 28th January

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour RC Primary School – **9.15am in OLPS School Hall**

St. Gerard's RC Primary School – 9.15am in **St. Gerard's School**

St. Basil's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Basil's Church**

St. John Fisher RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. John Fisher Church**

Wednesday 29th January

St. Michael's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Michael's School Hall**

St. Bede's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Bede's School Hall**

Deanery of Warrington and Widnes Mass

On **Friday 31st January at 12 noon** at St. John Fisher Church we welcome the people and priests of the deanery to our parish. The Mass is the ideal place to gather to pray for the deanery as we face the future together. Please make a special effort to attend Mass this day. It is so important to be supported in our journey of faith as we travel the synodal way.

Hong Kong Catholics Co-ordination Group

A notice for parishioners originally from Hong Kong, Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai S.D.B. (韓大輝總主教) will be visiting Warrington on Saturday 1 February 2025. He will be celebrating mass in Cantonese at 2:30pm, after mass he will also give a talk about the Jubilee Year at approximately 3:30pm and there will be tea & coffee afterward. This will take place at St Benedict's Church, Rhode Street, Warrington WA2 7QE. For further information, please contact the Warrington Hong Kong Catholics Co-ordination Group at warrington.hkcatholic@gmail.com

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of the community. Any safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately.

Safeguarding Lead – Fr. Mark

Safeguarding Reps – Pauline Ruth, Carol Murray and Pauline Rolt

Parish Liturgy

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|------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 26th January | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | |
| 09.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Margaret & Ted Riley |
| 10.15 | Holy Mass | St Michael | Brian Quinn |
| 11.30 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Parishioners |
| 16.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Tracey McNamara |
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| Monday | 27th January | Ferial | |
| 13.00 | Funeral Service | St Basil | Kian Thomas Rose |
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| Tuesday | 28th January | Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas | |
| 12noon | Requiem Mass | St John Fisher | Maureen Richardson |
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| Wednesday | 29th January | Ferial | |
| 11.30 | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary | | |
| 12noon | Holy Mass | St Michael | Terence Feery |
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| Thursday | 30th January | Ferial | |
| NO MASS/SERVICE | | | |
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| Friday | 31st January | Memorial of St John Bosco | |
| 12noon | Deanery Mass | St John Fisher | John Earnest Leigh |
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| Saturday | 1st February | | |
| 16.30 | Holy Mass | St Basil | Terri & Steve Cloherty |
| 18.00 | Holy Mass | St John Fisher | Eddie Burke |
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| Sunday | 2nd February | Feast of the Presentation of the Lord | |
| 09.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Jim McCann |
| 10.15 | Holy Mass | St Michael | Mass Association Members |
| 11.30 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Diane Ferris |
| 16.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Parishioners |

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

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| St Bede: | Special Intention |
| St Basil: | Vocations to the Priesthood |
| St John Fisher: | Cath & Mick Hyland |
| St Michael: | Thanksgiving (RB) |

Requiescant in pace

Brendan Coffey, Esme Barron, Terrence Bonnon,
Susan Laveric, Gerald Carroll, John Mullarkey,
Peter Higgins, Joan Little, Elisabeth Campbell,
Thomas Ware, Mary Glover & Frank Carolan

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!