

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

Second Sunday of Advent— 5th December 2021—Year C

“Listen!

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

Rev 3:20



PARISH CLERGY

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

PARISH WEBSITE: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Facebook: Parish of St Wilfrid Widnes

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

Please note the parish GMAIL address is no longer active.

St Wilfrid's Parish Office

St Bede's Presbytery

Appleton Village

Widnes, WA8 6EL

0151 422 1772

Please email:

stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk

Office Manager

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator

Deb Kenna

Wednesday Word - <http://wednesdayword.org/parish/index.htm>

Catholic Pictorial - <http://www.catholicpic.co.uk/>

The international Organisation for Migration is just seventy years old and Pope Francis, as you would expect,

sent a strong birthday message about migrants and migration, mentioning in particular those who died so tragically in the Channel, those stuck in terrible conditions on the borders of Belarus and those who have died crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

"The fundamental lack of human respect across national borders diminishes us all in our humanity".

I suspect that there was such a feeling here after the Channel disaster but wonder how much it changed hearts in regard to the treatment of migrants in our country. It hit home quite hard when the Pope said: Most people who can live decently in their country of origin would not feel compelled to migrate irregularly.

Urgent efforts are needed to create better social and economic conditions so that migration is not the only option for those seeking peace, justice, security and full respect for human dignity.

What hit home was the fact that we have reduced our Overseas Development contribution from the U.N. requested 0.7% of gross national income to 0.5%, which is a very significant drop in a contribution of which a major part would go precisely to what Pope Francis is talking about. We were one of the few countries giving the full amount, and all recent British Governments have agreed to that until now.

And the Pope speaks of the riches that migrants bring to their welcoming country: Migrants make visible the bond that unites the entire human family, the richness of cultures and the resources for developing the exchanges and trade networks that make up the diaspora communities.

And Pope Francis promised that the Catholic Church and its institutions will continue its mission of welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating people on the move.

Bishop John

Parish Advent Party - Thank You

Thank you to all who came to the parish party last Friday, it was a fantastic evening!

The parish centre provides a wonderful buffet, Leanne and Phil provided musical entertainment and our own parishioners wrote, produced, and directed a pantomime that rivalled any Broadway show!

The parish raffle was drawn, and all winners have been informed and prizes collected. The evening raised a massive **£1750.00** which will be put into the parish funds.

A final thank you to the Social Group who organised the whole event.

Fr Mark

An Appeal for used postage stamps

Fr Bill is collecting used postage stamps and would appreciate if you would bring any stamps, you have and leave in boxes provided in church porch.

Parish Office

Please note the office will be closed on **Wednesday 8th December between 10am—12 Noon** and closed all day on **Thursday 9th December**.

Mask's MUST be worn when visiting Parish Office.
Thank You.

NEW DEANERIES

The Pastoral plan made provision for the following new deaneries in the Archdiocese.

Warrington and Widnes

Blessed James Bell, Warrington

Holy Family, Cronton

Sacred Heart and St. Alban, Warrington

St. Joseph, Penketh

St. Paul of the Cross, Burtonwood

St. Peter and St. Michael, Woolston

St. Stephen, Orford

St. Wilfrid, Widnes

Dean: Fr Dave Heywood

St Benedict's Priory

Warrington

WA2 7QE

Tele: 01925 630127

ST. BEDE'S CLUB - WIDNES FOODBANK

Following the decision of the Archdiocese to close St Bede's Club Bishop Tom Neylon approached Widnes Foodbank to ascertain whether it could use the club premises for its purposes.

Widnes Foodbank decided that by undertaking some alterations the club premises could be made into a very suitable food storage warehouse and on 12th November 2021 entered into a lease of the club premises from the Archdiocese.

Over the next few months alterations will be made to the club premises to make it suitable for use as a food storage warehouse.

When this alteration work is completed the club premises will become the main warehouse of Widnes Foodbank. Widnes Foodbank will also retain its existing warehouse at Cemetery Lodge.

Due to an increase in the number of clients and an increase in the amount of food donations Widnes Foodbank is seeking to recruit additional volunteers to:-use their own vehicles to collect food from the donation points and deliver it to the warehouse and then transport food from the warehouse to the distribution centres; work in the warehouse weighing, sorting, dating and storing food donations; and work in the food distribution centres distributing food to the clients.

If you are interested in volunteering, a volunteer application form can be found on the Widnes Foodbank website (www.widnesfoodbank.org.uk).

Second Week of Advent - Give Peace

Our prayers this week will focus on restoring peace in the world. There are many who are living without peace and are in need of our prayers.

During this week of Advent, pray for the peace of Christ to penetrate our hearts. Amen





St. Wilfrid's Advent Appeal – 2021

So often we buy gifts for people who don't really need them! Socks and scarves that are very nice but not really needed! As Christians we are called to see Advent as a real time of waiting in hope, a time of reflection and prayer and a time of showing our faith in caring for those in need. This year we are going to help asylum seekers, refugees, and vulnerable migrants by giving them a gift that IS desperately needed. All items must be NEW as they are a Christmas gift. If you would like to buy a gift, you simply take a 'Christmas Label' from the back of Church, with an item that is needed and return it with the label attached. This stops us all buying the same things! Gifts can be left (please do not wrap them) at the back of all the churches during Advent. (Last date for donations is Sunday 19th December) Men's underwear – sizes small and medium, Socks – sizes 6 – 12, Warm hats, gloves, and scarves (male and female) Training shoes – male sizes 6 – 10, Women's underwear – sizes 10 – 16 Small electrical items – toaster, kettles, blender, juicer (if the receipt could be attached to these items it would be a great help), Small and medium pans, Pillows, and pillowcases. "Joseph got up, took the child and his mother and left that night for Egypt where he stayed until the death of Herod. In this way, what the Lord had said through the prophet was fulfilled: I called my son out of Egypt" Matthew Ch 2 vs. 14 - 15

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Has your situation changed?

Are you sick and housebound and **unable** to get to Mass?

Would you like to receive Holy Communion at home from the hands of a Eucharistic Minister?

Please contact the parish office with all the persons details and we shall do our very best to visit when we are allowed.

Fr. Mark

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our churches always look beautiful, thanks to the hard work of so many people, yet like our homes we want our church to look extra special around the Feast of Christmas! If you would like to donate some money towards the cost of Christmas flowers then please pop them through the door at any of the presbyteries marked, **Christmas Flowers**. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



Eucharistic Ministers To The Sick

Following on from last weeks meeting could I ask that ministers who hope to take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound in the new year let us know who they wish to go out with. Be mindful that this other person does **not have** to be a Eucharistic Minister but **does** need to have gone through the DBS procedure.

Please drop both your names addresses and contact numbers through the office letterbox or e mail them to stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.co.uk as we are in the process of preparing rotas.

Thank you. Fr. Mark

Blessing of Our Lady's Grotto at St Michael's Church

The original Grotto was built by Lawrence Fraser to celebrate the 21st anniversary of Our Lady's Church and was presented to Fr David O'Kelly on 3rd November 1980, the priest who founded the parish and built the church. To ensure that he had the dimensions correct, Lol built the inner section of the Grotto in his garden with his wife, Joan, standing in for Our Lady. The Grotto set the scene for many May crowning ceremonies for the school children and the start of our Whit-Sunday walks. Over the years the Grotto has become a special place for parishioners, children, visitors, dog walkers, in fact for anyone who was just passing by and wanted to say a prayer, or a hello, to Our Lady: it was the perfect place for a little quiet contemplation.

At the beginning of 'lockdown' a small group of parishioners began to meet each Friday afternoon to say the Rosary – fortunately, the weather that first year was perfect, and praying in the sunshine was a little bit special. Circumstances recently changed and it was decided to relocate the Grotto to St Michael's church garden. Who better to rebuild the Grotto than Stephen Fraser, Lol's son? Using many of the stones from Our Lady's Grotto, Stephen has blended those stones with the sandstone walls of St Michael's, and the Grotto looks as if it has always been there – it looks at home. The Rosary Circle continues to meet each week and invites you all to attend St Michael's church on Thursday December 9th when the Grotto will be blessed before the mid-day Mass in celebration of Our Lady's feast of the Immaculate Conception on 8th December .



This week the sanctuary lamp burns for:

St Bede: Teresa & Michael Grady
 St John Fisher: Private Intention
 St Michael: Joan Moran
 St Basil: Vocation to the Priesthood & Religious Life



Sunday 5 th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	9.00 am 10.00am 10.00am 11.00am 4.00 pm	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Michael's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>)	Pat & Terry Heneghan Eleanor Wood Fr Stan Baker Caroline Ann Edwards Thomas Jackson
Monday 8 th December	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9.00am 9.10am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Holy Mass (<i>St Basil's</i>)	Mary & Jim Brennan
Tuesday 7 th December	Weekday of Advent	11.30am 11.40am 12 Noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Rosary Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>)	John Martin
Wednesday 8 th December	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	6.30pm 6.40pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Evening Prayer Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>)	Fr Stephen Pritchard
Thursday 9 th December	Weekday of Advent	11.30am 11.40am 12 Noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Rosary Holy Mass (<i>St Michael's</i>)	Graham Hill
Friday 10 th December	Weekday of Advent	9.00am 9.10am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Prayer During the Day Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>)	Susan Dale
Saturday 11 th December	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>	10.00am 10.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>) Confessions (<i>St Bede's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Basil's</i>)	Muriel Tollet Joyce, Doug & Paul Bennett Ronald Padden

St Bede's is open for private prayer

Monday to Friday

10.00am to 13.30pm