



# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



## Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Year C)

5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Parish Office:**  
St Bede's Presbytery  
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Cheshire  
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**Parish Clergy:**

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Sylvia Cawley  
**Administrator:**  
Deborah Kenna

### Psalm Response

**'All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.'**

### The year past and the year to come

This weekend includes the '12th Day of Christmas', the night before the Epiphany, the coming of the Wise Men to visit baby Jesus. It's also the traditional time to take your decorations down. My family love the Christmas decorations, but we are equally glad to pack them away for another year.

After this busy time I invite you to reflect on the year past and the year to come. When you start this reflection, begin by inviting God into the process. God asks, in fact He requires us, to reflect on Him and the world around us. Maybe last year and the year ahead hold mixed feelings for you. The solution is to put all in God's hands!

Let's start with the year gone, 2024. Give thanks for the things that happened last year that you are thankful for. Gratitude lifts our spirits and reminds us where our help comes from. Next, reflect on the prayers that God answered for you last year. Give some time over this. They may not be immediately obvious. Bear in mind God's faithfulness.

Now let's turn to 2025. What are your hopes for the year ahead? Try and think of three things and then turn them into prayers. Do this by speaking about them to God. Use your own words. Be bold and open yourself to listen to God. He will lead you.

Finally, for 2025 please rest in God's love and care for you. No matter what tomorrow brings, He is always there for you.

**Deacon Paul**

## Thank you

On behalf of Fr. Peter, Dcn. Paul, Syl and Deb, can I express my deepest thanks for all the good wishes, promise of prayer and gifts that were passed into the presbytery over Christmas. They made us all feel very loved and supported in our ministry within this wonderful parish of St. Wilfrid. Thank you for your kindness!

Fr. Mark

## Sacramental Programme

In the next week, all the children who are in Year 4 and in our Catholic Schools will receive a letter inviting their parents to enroll them onto the parish programme. This is so that the children can be prepared and so receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion worthily and wisely. If you know of a child who is in Year 4 and is a baptised Roman Catholic but does not go to a Catholic School, then please ask them to pass their name and contact details into the Parish Office for the attention of Pauline Rolt. Letters of invitation will be going to all non-Catholic Schools in the parish too.

Fr. Mark

## Lourdes 2025 expressions of interest

Our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes, in association with the annual Archdiocesan pilgrimage, will take place Thursday 24th July until Thursday 31st July 2025. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope', reflecting the Jubilee Year of 2025. It's also an important year for our Archdiocese as the case of John (Jack) Traynor has been declared a miracle.

If you wish to join us in Lourdes in 2025, please pass your name into the parish office.

## Catholic Heritage of Widnes – St. Michael's Church

On **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January** after the **10am Mass**, there will be an opportunity to see, for the first time, the opening of the heritage display of 'Catholic Life' here in Widnes. Many months work has gone into this display by Peter McCann, parish archivist, and it will be a most interesting to see a snapshot of who we are!

Please make a note and come along and see the history of this wonderful parish.

Confessions will be available from 10.30am and refreshments will be available after Mass.

## Praying with Parents

St. Bede's RC Infant School and Fr. Mark are offering an opportunity for parents of children in their school to come and pray together. This is a pilot of what Fr. Mark hopes to offer across all the schools in the parish this year. Just 15 minutes of simple prayer will be offered. You don't have to do anything, just simply come and tune in to God!

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Guild Hall (opposite entrance to St. Bede RC Infant School)**

**9.05am – 9.20am and again at 2.55pm – 3.15pm**

## Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

Lord God, please give to your Church many more priests after your own heart.

May they be worthy representatives of the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance;

be examples of humility and poverty; and shining models of holiness;

tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments.

May their loving devotion to your Son, Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary His Mother be the twin fruitfulness for their ministry. Amen.

## An invitation to a unique opportunity...

*"A Bishop's task is to preside over a local Church as a visible principle of unity within it and a bond of communion with all the Churches." (69)*

*"This is why the Assembly desires that the People of God have a greater voice in choosing Bishops." (70)*

XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2024

The Vatican Synod clearly says that in the appointment of bishops the voice of synodal bodies must be heard. As you know, the process is underway for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Liverpool. You are invited to contribute to this process to have your voice heard. This is an exciting development in the life of the Church! There will be two meetings, held with the blessing of Archbishop Malcolm, on:

- **Thursday 16th January 2025 at St Mary's Leyland, PR25 1PD (7.00pm – 9.30pm) and**
- **Saturday 18th Jan 2025 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, L17 1AA (10.30am - 1.00pm)**

Each gathering will be the same – so only come to one of them. There will be two parts to the meeting: Firstly, we will begin by looking at where we are as a diocese and our future development and secondly, we will consider the qualities needed in our future Archbishop.

This is open to all members of our community here in the Archdiocese. To reserve a place at one of the meetings please fill in the online form in the link below: [bit.ly/ASCMeetingAOL](https://bit.ly/ASCMeetingAOL)

If you are unable to take part in person but would like to take part in the Saturday meeting by Zoom, please follow the link below on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89983555285?pwd=GbHwdzCo42YoaRMvllq8GgZBz5M5NW.1>

### Upcoming Meetings

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm** – Liturgy Meeting at St. Bede's Presbytery.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am** – Clergy Meeting at St. Bede's Presbytery.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 9.30am** – Buildings and Finance Meeting at St. Bede's Presbytery.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm** – Vision Group at St. Bede's Presbytery.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10am** – Deanery Synodal Council at St. Benedict's, Warrington .

### 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.**

### Mass Intentions

Every effort to respond to requests for Masses to be said on a specific date and in a specific church is made. Yet, please understand that Requiem Masses and availability of the priests often make these requests impossible. The Mass requested will be celebrated at the nearest opportunity to the date requested. Your understanding is sought on this issue. Mass requests should be made as early as possible and passed into the Parish Office.

# Parish Liturgy

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mass Association Members
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Ken Gibbons
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Monica O'Mahoney
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Matilda & George Roberts
<b>Monday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
9.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Morning Prayer		
9.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Mike Allibone
<b>12.30</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>St Basil</b>	<b>David Crompton</b>
<b>14.00</b>	<b>'Epiphany Mass'</b>	<b>St. Bede's RC Junior School Hall</b>	
	<i>(School Mass)</i>		Fred & Mary Murphy
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
11.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Geoff Derden
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>St Basil</b>	<b>Jim Norris</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
11.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Buckley
<b>13.30</b>	<b>St. Basil Feast Day Mass</b>	<b>St. Basil</b>	Ann Vesey
	<i>(School Mass)</i>		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
9.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Morning Prayer		
9.30	Service of the Word with Holy Communion    St. John Fisher		
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Holy Mass and Confessions</b>	<b>St. Michael</b>	John & Kathy Anderson Jean Hunter
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Jean & Domingo Bernad
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Winifred Flanagan
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Pauline Noone
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	John O'Brien & Julie Sant
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Majorie Higginson

### Sanctuary Lamp

*The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.*

<b>St Bede:</b>	Benny Rudge
<b>St Basil:</b>	Stephen Farrell
<b>St John Fisher:</b>	Sister Clare O'Driscoll
<b>St Michael:</b>	Declan Smith

### Requiescant in pace

Margaret Houghton, Christopher Kelly,  
Brian McKeown, Martin Hassett, John Parker,  
Maureen Richardson, Kian Rose , Peter Glover,  
David Abbott, John Doyle & Brendan Coffey

**May the Angels lead them into Paradise!**