



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C)



6th April 2025

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Psalm Response

'What great deeds the LORD worked for us! Indeed, we were glad'.

Why do these things happen?

All kinds of terrible things occur in our world, for instance earthquakes. The recent earthquakes in Myanmar got me thinking 'Why do these things happen?'.

The earthquakes in Myanmar have had a devastating impact. Two large earthquakes have shaken the country, followed by further shocks. It is the most powerful earthquake to strike Myanmar since 1912. At least 2,800 people have died and over 4,600 are injured – many of them children. Sadly, numbers are expected to rise further.

We might ask ourselves why a perfectly good, almighty and all-knowing God permits these terrible things. This is a complex theological and philosophical question, one with no definitive answer. Some would argue that these things are a test of faith, some interpret natural disasters as a sign of divine judgment or warning, others believe that God is in control of all things, even natural disasters, and that He allows them for reasons that may not be fully understood by humans.

As a Catholic scientist, I take the view that natural disasters are simply the result of natural laws and processes, and that God is not directly responsible for them. I would argue that this way of thinking aligns with Catholic teaching, something called natural law. Natural law refers to a universal, objective moral order accessible through reason. What do you think?

Whatever the philosophical and theological complexities of these arguments, our response must be to 'love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12 30-31). As Christians we must do all we can to respond to these disasters in a practical and meaningful way, including prayer.

Deacon Paul

Will you Walk in Witness to Your Faith in Jesus?

On **Palm Sunday, 13th April**, afternoon at **3pm** we will gather outside St. Bede's Church and walk in witness to our faith through Victoria Park praying and singing and showing our faith in our community. Will you come? Will you change your usual routine and come and walk as a Christian as we enter the holiest of weeks? We may be laughed at; we may be ridiculed – but so was He...

4pm Mass on Palm Sunday

After the Walk of Witness there will be a 4pm Mass at St. Bede, yet the Mass will be with the Neo Catechumenate Community and presided over by their priest. You are all welcome to join this Mass, but it will be a bit longer than the usual 4pm Mass!

Lenten Journey

Monday 7th April at 7pm at St. Bede – Holy Hour – Jesus, the Comforter

Tuesday 8th April at 12.30pm at the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher – Scripture Group

Wednesday 9th April at 7am at St. John Fisher – Early Riser Mass

Thursday 10th April at 7pm at the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher – CAFOD Soup and Prayer Evening.

Friday 11th April at 1pm at St. Basil's Church – Stations of the Cross

Saturday 12th April at 10.30am at St. Basil's Church – Confessions

Lenten Reconciliation Service

On **Tuesday 15th of April** at St. John Fisher Church we shall have our Lenten Reconciliation Service. Everyone is encouraged to avail themselves of the sacrament before Easter.

PLEASE NOTE: if you have been to confession during Lent, especially in the past few weeks, you do not need to come again. We have offered lots of opportunities for confession this Lent, they are all valid! We can only find three priests to hear confessions on the 15th, so please come to confession if you have *not been*, but if you *have been* to confession recently, bask in your forgiveness!

Relics of St. Columba, St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland

St. Wilfrid's Knights of St. Columba have been asked to host a visit of the relics of these three great saints in our parish. What an honour! They will visit our church after Easter, and we shall pray with the relics asking their intercession for our mission here in Widnes.

Timetable of the Visit – St. John Fisher Church

Wednesday 23rd April

9.30am – Morning Prayer and Rosary

10am – 12noon – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the presence of the Relics.

12noon – Holy Mass (*Presider: Fr. Bill Murphy, Chaplain to the Knights of St. Columba*)

12.30pm – 2pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the presence of the Relics.

6pm - 7pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the presence of the Relics.

7pm – Holy Mass

Thursday 24th April

9.30am - Morning Prayer and Rosary

10am – 12noon - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the presence of the Relics.

12noon - Holy Mass (*Presider: Fr. Bill Murphy, Chaplain to the Knights of St. Columba*)

Relics to depart from St. Wilfrid's Parish.

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 **by Friday 11th April as it will be drawn on Palm Sunday!**

Many thanks!

Easter Lilies

If you would like to buy a lily for Easter, then the **final date** for names and offerings is **Friday 11th April**. All names to be into the Parish Office using the envelopes and lists provided at the back of churches, by this date please.

Our Lenten Journey 2025 Week 5: Pause For Thought

As a parishioner of St. Wilfrid's could we commit to giving some time each day this coming week in silent prayer and contemplation? We could ask ourselves:

- Do I create time to listen to God?
- Do I listen to my own conscience and act on it?
- What is the Lord asking of me?
- Am I willing and ready to respond to his call?

'Obeying God is listening to God, having an open heart to follow the path that God points out to us.'

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.

Parish Choir

We will be practicing music for the Easter Services on Tuesday **8th April at St. Michael's Church, 7pm**. Please note the change of venue. As usual, if you have not sung before, or not sung for years, or have not been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally, it does not matter, you would be most welcome. Sadly though, All members of the choir must be over 18 due to safeguarding guidance.

Chrism Mass

Wednesday 16th April, leaving St. Bede at 6pm and returning 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.

St Michael's Church

It has been communicated to St. Wilfrid's Parish this week that the request for a new heating system at St. Michael's Church has been turned down by the Archdiocesan Trustees. We await clarification.

Lourdes Collection

On Easter Sunday at all Masses there will be a second collection to help our four young people, Chrissie, Christopher, Caolan and Hannah to attend the Lourdes Pilgrimage this summer. They work so hard when they are there and have a wonderful experience of God and His Church. Please be generous, as you always are!

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	6th April	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	George & Leah Sadler
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Doyle
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Martin Wynne
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mass Association Members
Monday	7th April	Lent Feria	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Alex Standen
19.00	Holy Hour	St Bede	
Tuesday	8th April	Lent Feria	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Basil	Michael John Twist
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Ann Healey
Wednesday	9th April	Lent Feria	
07.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Mrs Finlun
11.00	Requiem Mass	St John Fisher	Margaret Mary Colford
Thursday	10th April	Lent Feria	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Kenny Tennant
Friday	11th April	Lent Feria	
9.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Norah Phillips & Steven Connor
Saturday	12th April	Palm Sunday Passion of The Lord	
10.00	Holy Mass	St Basil	Vladmir Potopayev & Pat Fallon
10.30	Confessions		
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Joe Jones
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Jean & Family
Sunday	13th April	Palm Sunday Passion of The Lord	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Michael & Winnie Burns
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Davies
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
15.00	Walk of Witness	St Bede	
16.00	Holy Mass <i>(Neo Cat Community)</i>	St Bede	Marie Bonnon

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Nancy Carter
St Basil:	Special Intention
St John Fisher:	Anne Follon
St Michael:	Birthday Remembrance (JK)

Rest in Peace

Steve Cawley, Roy Shone,
Lawrence Karalius, Patricia Ogburn,
Derek Hughes & Lillian Burns
Elsie Harrison, Stephen Cosgrove, Philip Lynch,

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!