



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Times (Year C)

9th February 2025

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St Bede's Presbytery
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Psalm Response

'In the presence of the angels I praise you, O Lord'

Continuing our Synodal Journey...

Mission Development – a Local Mission Planning Approach

"We are not just responsible for the church today. Rather, we have a fundamental responsibility to hand a healthy and sustainable church on to the next generation"

This is the opening line of the document that will be at the center of much discussion in the next phase of our synodal journey. This process will enable parishioners, clergy, Deanery Synodal Council (DSC), lay volunteers and parish groups to be engaged in planning and mission as we continue to move forward as the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

The document states that this is a '*complex task*' – whilst affirming and supporting the great work that is currently taking place, we are called to explore new ways of working and being as we look with hope to the future.

As we know the resources we have, including number of priests, deacons and lay volunteers are declining, therefore the number of buildings we have cannot be sustained across the Archdiocese. This process provides us with a framework for continuing development as together we grow into a church fit for purpose and filled with hope.

Later in the month, the priests of the Archdiocese will meet to learn more of the implications of this strategy which will also be shared with DSC's in readiness for discussion at a local level.

Here at St. Wilfrid's our journey continues, change is our reality and in truth has been our reality for many years. Let's pray, discuss, plan and respond to where He is calling us to be!

Fr. Mark

Could you be an Altar Server?

St Wilfrid's Altar Servers group is going from strength. We have been meeting with them since autumn 2024 and now have an exciting series of social events and formation sessions lined up.

Do you know someone who might benefit from joining our Altar Servers? No previous experience is necessary as you will receive the required support and formation. We welcome children who have made their First Holy Communion upwards, as well as adults who wish to serve.

There are lots of reasons for becoming an Altar Server. It might just be one of the best things you could choose to do! If you are interested, please speak to Fr Peter, Deacon Paul or one of our adult Altar Servers. St Wilfrid's need you!

Dcn Paul and Fr Peter

Lourdes 2025 Parish Pilgrimage

Thank you to everyone who has already shown interest to our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes - Thursday 24th July until Thursday 31st July 2025. We have received a good number of positive responses. This is immensely helpful for our forward planning. We will be staying in the Hotel Roissy, and the cost is **£1045** with a single room supplement to be added. There is still time to come on pilgrimage, but you will need to contact the Parish Office now with some urgency. If you intend to join our Lourdes 2025 pilgrimage, please come to the planning meeting at **7.00pm** on **Thursday 13th February** in **St. Bede's Church**. All are welcome.

This 2025 pilgrimage to Lourdes has special significance for the Archdiocese of Liverpool as the Church has declared the case of John (Jack) Traynor a miracle. Jack was a pilgrim on the Archdiocese's first official pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1923 and was cured dramatically of epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm and paraplegia during the pilgrimage. It is the first English miracle to be recognised at Lourdes.

Dcn Paul

Sacrament of Confirmation

Are you in Year 8 or above and would like to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation later this year? You need to register at liverpoolcalled.co.uk. Please remember to note on the registration form that you are a member of the Parish of St. Wilfrid in **Widnes**. Any queries please see **Fr. Peter**.

Aged 18-35?

Are you aged 18-35? Do you want to grow in faith? Would you like to meet other young catholics? If it's a 'yes, yes, yes', then come and be part of our new 18-35's group! You are invited to an initial 'vision meeting' on **Sunday 2nd of March at St. Bede's Presbytery (6pm - 8pm)**, to spend some time in prayer, share refreshments and decide on what we want to do. So, get thinking! Speaking personally, I know that being young and catholic can feel isolating. But here in Widnes, there is no reason to feel isolated, as there are, in fact, many of us young parishioners scattered across the town. So come along! I'll be there. You never know, it might be the best thing you ever do...

Fr Peter

LGBT+ Catholics , Archdiocese of Liverpool

The next gathering will be held on **Sunday 2nd March 2025** at All Saints, High Street, Golborne, Warrington, WA3 3BG. Holy Mass at 2.00pm followed by refreshments. All are welcome to attend.

Safeguarding

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

Safeguarding Lead – Fr. Mark

Safeguarding Reps – Pauline Ruth, Carol Murray and Pauline Rolt

Marriage Preparation

Catholic Marriage preparation is a mandatory process that helps couples understand the Catholic Church's teachings on marriage and family life. Preparation for couples who are getting married in our parish will be held 10am until 3pm on **Saturday 15th February 2025** in the Parish Hall at St John Fisher. The facilitators are Jane Rooney and her husband Rev. Deacon Paul.

Please pray for all who will participate in this time together, that they will come closer to God and to each other.

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.**

The coach to take us to the Cathedral for this historic event, will leave **St. Bede at 5.45pm** and return after the drink's reception. There is no cost as the Archdiocese are paying for the transport to and from the Cathedral!

The coach is full! There is a waiting list, so if you have put your name down and cannot go, please let the Parish Office know ASAP.

Widnes Foodbank

I would like to say thank you for the donations of Advent Calendars and food to Widnes Foodbank from St Wilfrid's Parish. As donations have dropped considerably in the current financial climate, we are very grateful for these contributions. It is only due to the goodwill of people like you that Foodbank can work as well as it does. Thank You.

St Wilfrid's Pastoral Statistics 2024

Each year every parish in the Archdiocese must report the statistics of their individual parish so that the central offices can have a picture of Catholic life across the Archdiocese. These figures are then sent onwards and upwards to Rome. I thought it would be interesting for you all to see them.

Baptisms – 156

First Holy Communion – 101

Confirmations – 20

Marriages – 6

Funerals – 112 (*not including Services at the Crematorium or Burial of Ashes*)

Communion at Home – 68

Sunday Mass Attendance – Average 793

Cancellation

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Women's World Day of Prayer on 7th March will not take place in Widnes this year

Widnes Catholic Children's Choir

Calling all children in years 2-8 to join this exciting new **FREE** musical opportunity here in Widnes. The choir will rehearse weekly on a Monday, 4-5pm at St John Fisher Parish Hall, launching on March 3rd! To find out more visit <http://eepurl.com/i8AkqA> or scan the QR code.



Parish Liturgy

Sunday	9th February		
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mary Taylor
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Don Pearce
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Evelyn Edwards
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Dave Cunningham
Monday	10th February	Ferial	
09.00	Expositions & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St Basil	
Tuesday	11th February	Ferial	
12noon	Requiem Mass	St. John Fisher	Terence Bonnon
Wednesday	12th February	Ferial	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Basil	Edward Joseph Mulroy
Thursday	13th February	Ferial	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Joan & Arthur Wilcox
Friday	14th February	Feast Day of Ss Cyril & Methodius	
11.30	Requiem Mass	St. Michael	Alberto Macchione
Saturday	15th February		
10am	Holy Mass & Confessions	St. John Fisher	Marie Cullerton Fr Tony Reynolds
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Winifred Golson
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
Sunday	16th February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Times	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	David Hindle
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Linda Garvie
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Edwards
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Mason

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Special Intention
St Basil:	Get Well (Steve)
St John Fisher	John Ernest Leigh
St Michael:	Julia King

Requiescant in pace

Susan Laveric, Gerald Carroll, Mary Glover, Francis Carolan,
Terence O'Brien, Marie Sheridan, Elisabeth Campbell,
Jean Magee, Cecila Flanagan
Nancy Jordan, Christine (Tina) Owens,
& Cecelia Morris (Shannon)

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!