

## **Advent and Christmas Appeal 2024**

Each year we have an Advent appeal for a worthy cause, this year the cause is very close to home; our own Catholic schools here in Widnes. I have often said that our schools are the pride of our parish, and they are more than that, they are missionary outposts, 'other' churches in our community and often the first point of contact for those who do not know what to do or where to go with a 'church' related matter.

As we all know, things change and the liturgical life and RE curriculum in our schools is constantly being reviewed and changed, as it should be, so that our children receive a wonderful experience of God and His kingdom, that is always fresh and new. This year, I suggest that we offer a gift to the children in our own parish and provide religious resources and experiences that they would not otherwise be able to afford from their own RE school budget.

**Some ideas that the schools might choose...**

**Good News Bibles that are accessible and attractive for all the children.**

**A crucifix for the chapel at St. Peter and Paul or a moveable altar for Mass in the College.**

**The cost of buses so that our children can go on retreat.**

**Resources to make RE lessons come alive.**

The headteachers with the RE coordinator would choose what they need in their particular school and report back to the parish community on what they have spent the appeal money on.

If you would like to be part of the Advent Appeal this year, please pass your donation on an envelope marked '**ADVENT APPEAL**' into the Parish Office or into the offertory bags at Mass. The money will then be split between the schools in the parish in the new year. So often we buy things at Christmas for people who don't need anything, perhaps this year we could give this gift of knowledge about Jesus to the smallest people in our parish community.

*'What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part, but what can I give Him?*

*Give Him my heart*



## Mass Times

### Christmas Eve

4.30pm – Mass at St. Basil  
4.30pm – Mass at St. Bede  
6pm – Mass at St. John Fisher  
6pm – Mass at St. Michael  
Midnight - Mass at St. Bede

### Christmas Day

9am – Mass at St. Bede  
10.15am - Mass at St. Michael  
11am – Mass at St. Bede

### Boxing Day

12noon – Mass of St. Stephen, at St. Michael



### Office Hours over Christmas

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**– Office open until 1.30pm.  
**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December** – Office closed.  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December** – Office open from 10am – 12 noon.  
**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December** - Office open from 10am – 12 noon.  
**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January**– Office closed.  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** – Normal office hours resume