

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

12th November 2023

Parish Office:

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Responsorial Psalm

R. 'For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God'

One Step at a Time

By the time you read this, I will have returned from a two-day trip to London... business not pleasure, before anyone asks!

When in London, I always make an effort to call into Westminster Cathedral, the magnificent neo-byzantine cathedral church of the Archdiocese of Westminster.

Those of you who have visited, will know that the internal decoration is largely incomplete. The rich, marble walls are surmounted by great domed ceilings made of black brick, and on an overcast day, it can feel very oppressive to gaze upon such a dark ceiling.

The reason for this is that the architect envisaged the ceiling space would be covered in a glittering carpet of mosaic tiles, but these things of course, are very expensive and the Cathedral are wisely undertaking the works one step at a time.

Just like the ceiling at Westminster Cathedral, none of us are the finished article. It takes self-discipline and a renewed sense of daily commitment to grow in holiness. We can only live out our life of discipleship one step at a time. But just think how beautiful the finished article will be, and how precious the journey to get there.

'For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.'

Ephesians 2: 10

Fr Thomas

UCM	Christmas Cards	Note for Readers
St Wilfrid's UCM Foundation invites you to a Christmas Bingo! Monday 20th November 2023 - Doors open 1.30pm . Entrance £1 at St John Fisher Hall, Moorfield Road. All monies raised go to UCM charities.	Are now available in all our piety stalls.	If you are reading the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass, you should move from your place during the words of the Creed, ' <i>I believe in one, holy catholic and apostolic Church</i> ', so that you are at the ambo at the end of the Creed, and we can move into the prayers seamlessly. Thank you for your ministry amongst us.

All Volunteers – Safeguarding

All volunteers who have *hold a current* DBS Certificate (*Eucharistic Ministers, Baptism Catechists, Sacramental Program Catechists, Altar Servers who are over 16, Sacristans*), need to action the following instructions.

Code of Conduct and Volunteer Written Agreement

In the sacristy of the church that you usually attend, there will be an envelope with your name on it, inside there will be *two* copies of the above documents. You need to *read and sign* both copies of each document. Then please *keep* one copy of each document and *return* one copy of each document to the Parish Office at your earliest convenience. This is to comply with Archdiocesan and National Safeguarding directives and we as a parish are committed to always following best practice.

If you do hold a *current* DBS Certificate and your envelope is not at the back of church, there are some envelopes without names on, with the label '*SPARE*' on, please take one of these and follow the same process.

Just to reiterate that no Eucharistic Minister should ever go out to the Sick or the housebound alone. If your partner is ill, if you cannot find another authorised person, you should not go under any circumstance. Thank you for your ministry amongst the most vulnerable in our community.

Fr Mark

Can you volunteer?

We need your help! At the moment, we are struggling to populate our Eucharistic Ministers and Readers Rota – the same people are being called upon to read and minister at Mass each weekend. We need Readers and Eucharistic Ministers (to either just serve at Mass or at Mass and take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound) for all Masses across the parish.

We should be giving people the opportunity to receive from the chalice at Mass and at present this is impossible. We are the largest parish in the Archdiocese, we should be able to offer a liturgy with all ministries easily covered each week.

What to do next...

- i. If you would like to volunteer, pass your name, address and telephone number into the parish office saying which Mass and which ministry you would be willing to serve at.
- ii. Pauline Ruth, our Safeguarding Representative will contact you to fill in the necessary forms.
- iii. Once they are completed, training will be given by Pauline Rolt and Fr. Mark and then you will be placed upon the rota.

Please think about this, we are all called to serve one another in our community.

Fr Mark

Requiescant in pace

John McGillicuddy,
Thomas McDermott, Joan Frances McGowan &
John Watt

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Paul Rotherham
St Michael	Holy Souls
St John Fisher	Archdiocesan Synodal Council
St Basil	Margaret Mc Dermott

Buildings Update

We are delighted to update you all with news that significant progress has been made about the renovation of St Bede's church. Firstly, the Architects have been appointed who will take the lead on this project. They are Kepczyk Pearce Sanderson (KPS) Architects, Surveyors & Historic Building Consultants; they have recently completed the restoration of Shrewsbury Cathedral and have a proven track record in the repair and restoration of historic churches. Meetings have already taken place with the firm and a further meeting is scheduled for later this month. In the initial meeting a draft programme for the fabric repair work for St Bede's was discussed. KPS now have a clear picture of our plan for the church, including the addition of new facilities such as accessible toilets and reordering. They have already carried out a survey of the roof and have identified numerous issues which have caused the problems with damp and the ingress of water and have drawn up plans as to how to address these issues.

A Quantity Surveyor has also been appointed together with a firm to draw up a Statement of Significance of the importance historically of St Bede's Church. We are on schedule to submit proposals to the Historic Church Committee in January 2024, and although this is a tight timescale, we are optimistic that that date can be achieved. The next four months are critical to the success of this ambitious project and it is planned that an information evening will be held for all parishioners and interested parties in the New Year once approval from the Historic Churches Commission has been obtained.

In the meantime, other work is underway, including discussions with representatives of the Local Authority with regard to grant funding applications. As we have said previously this is an exciting and unique opportunity for the whole of Widnes but especially for the parishioners of St Wilfrid, to secure the future of this building.

St. Wilfrid's Building Group

Susan Warburton, Wayne Murray, Peter McCann, John Tully Fr. Thomas and Fr. Mark

Parish Advent Dance

On Friday 8th December you are invited to our parish dance and social at St Basil's Parish Club. Bingo! Dancing! Fun! Laughter! Tickets will be on sale at all Masses this **weekend**, and all money raised will go to the restoration fund for all our churches. Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets are £5 each which includes a light buffet. Come and socialise and make new friends with fellow parishioners!

Bring some money to church next weekend to get your tickets!

Archdiocesan Synodal Council

The first meeting of the Archdiocesan Synodal Council takes place on Saturday 25 November. Representatives of all the deaneries in the Archdiocese will gather to hear about the progress of the implementation of the Pastoral Plan and suggest pastoral priorities for the next twelve months. Our deanery reps are: Fr Dave (Dean), Roger Harrison (Chair of the Deanery Synodal Council), Clare Lancaster & Mary Hallam (Warrington), Pauline Rolt & Denise Roberts (Widnes & Cronton), Moses Mui (Hongkongers) and Austin Sabu (under 30's). If you would like your reps to raise any matters at the ASC, please let them know. Many thanks.

Fr Dave Heywood, Dean

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	12th Nov	Thirty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Winifred Flanagan (7 th Ann)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Peter Geraghty Snr (Ann)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	James Fay
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mary Tollett (B'day Rem)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Michael	Eileen Cooke (B'day Rem)
		<i>(Please note this is a Mass for the Faithful Departed and the change of venue)</i>	
Monday	13th Nov	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Holy Souls
Tuesday	14th Nov	Ferial	
10:30	Funeral Service	St Bede	Anne Edge
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Thomas and Susie Rogerson (B'day Rem)
Wednesday	15th Nov	Ferial	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Brian Bold
Thursday	16th Nov	Ferial	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Michael	Robert Fyldes
		<i>(Mass will be celebrated in the sacristy)</i>	
Friday	17th Nov	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Lesley Connolly (15 th Ann)
Saturday	18^h Nov	Ferial	
10.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Beryl Baker
10.30	Confessions		
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	Margaret Bate (B'day Rem)
Sunday	19^h Nov	Thirty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	90 th B'day Thanksgiving
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Terry Delaney (LD)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Sick Person
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Teresa Campbell
16.00	Holy Mass	St Michael	Susan Murty (10 th Ann)
		<i>(Please note this is a Mass for the Faithful Departed and the change of venue)</i>	