



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



15th September 2024

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

2nd Collection – Evangelii Gaudium

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Psalm Response

'I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living'.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

In 2013, Pope Francis gave us his first special letter under the Latin title *Evangelii Gaudium* (the Joy of the Gospel). In the document, the Pope makes it clear that the joy of the gospel arises out of our relationship with Jesus in prayer. Today, we are invited to re-consider that joy. Now, the greatest prayer of the Church, by an infinite margin, is of course the Mass. Just as the Second Vatican Council famously declared; "*the Eucharist (the Mass) is the source and summit of the Christian life*", so it follows naturally, that our whole week should pivot on the Sunday Mass, because it is in the Mass that we encounter Jesus, the Son of God, primarily. To be totally honest, the Mass is superior to all other forms of prayer! The rest of our prayer life should grow out of and feed into the Sunday Mass. Yes, we can encounter God in nature, yes, we can encounter God in each other, yes, we can encounter God at home washing the dishes, but it is only in the Mass that we receive Him into our very selves. In terms of 'encounter with God', the Mass has no rival. From the Mass, we go out, having encountered Jesus, to take his joy out to all. It is no co-incidence that every Mass ends with the word 'Go'. An encounter with Jesus should move us, cheers us, change us, convert us and send us. As missionary disciples fed and re-energised on the Eucharist, we take the joy of Jesus out into our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our streets. Pope Francis is not asking us to go to Albert Road and start shouting at people about hell fire! That would be massively unhelpful!

Evangelisation has to be genuinely joyful, human, natural and unforced. By observing the joy of Jesus in us, people should be able to tell that we are in a relationship with Him and then want to be in a relationship with Him themselves, so that they can get a slice of the joy. "*You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar*" is an often-heard quote attributed to Saint Francis de Sales, which illustrates this point very well. Surely, if we want people to know Jesus, then we have got to represent him joyfully. But we can only do this, if we are connected to Him. It has to be His joy. Our joy is just human joy, His joy in us is divine, almighty and awe-inspiring joy with no comparison. So, in short, come to Mass, come and be connected to Jesus and then go from Mass, take His joy out with you as a free gift for all and maybe everyone in Widnes will realise just how much they are treasured by God. Oh, how He loves us...

Fr Peter

Restoration Update

Hard hats, high viz jackets and boots were the order of the day when accompanied by Peter McCann and the architects I ascended the ladders to view the progress so far on the restoration of the St Bede's Church. As you can see the scaffolding is now finished right to the top of the church on all sides. It has taken a while but is worth it to ensure safety and to ensure that the whole exterior of the church can be restored in one go!

Despite the odd pigeon flying out at me from concealed corners the visit went well. The slates are not in too bad a condition. What is an issue are the weak points. The pointing, the flashings, bad repairs carried out in the past. When on top of the roof the poor state of the gutters and buildup of silt etc. show what the water is coming into the church.

What was an even bigger issue was the state of the large sandstone window above the high altar, it was literally crumbling in my hands as I touched it. The architect said it was returning to beach!! I.e. going back to sand.

Fortunately, however, the plan was to replace the window, so I do not need to worry when saying Mass that the beach might come crumbling down around me in the future.

I am pleased to report that the project is on schedule, and I will keep you all updated regularly as progress is made.

Fr Mark

Behold the True Cross

The parish relic of the True Cross, originally from the former parish of St Patrick's, is now on permanent display at St Michael's church. Provision has been made for private prayer before the Relic. Take a few minutes to kneel before the relic on your next visit to St Michael's!

'Because by the Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world'

Walsingham 2024

The balance of payment for our parish pilgrimage to Walsingham is due by the end of September. If you have booked an ensuite room, the balance is £220 per person and if you have booked a standard room the balance is £180. If you could pass your cheque (payable to St. Wilfrid's Parish) or cash into the Parish Office with your name attached for the attention of Susan Warburton. Many thanks.

St. Wilfrid's Parish Dance

Friday 18th October at 7.30pm - St. Basil's Parish Centre

In October we celebrate the feast of our parish patron, St. Wilfrid and we are going to have a parish dance to celebrate who and what we are as a parish community. There will be entertainment, buffet, dancing, stand up bingo, raffles and lots of fun times together! Come along and share an evening with your parish family! Tickets will be available shortly. Tickets are £5 each and will be on sale at all Masses on the **28th/29th September!**

Handypeople Needed!

So, often we need small jobs done around our churches and presbyteries and halls; and often because we are not able to do the job, we have to contact the archdiocese, and they send a tradesperson out to fix the problem and we are rightfully charged for this. Yet, the cost is often great for what is a small job, with call out fees etc. Could you help?

Small electrical jobs, like changing fuses and starting up the heating systems? Dripping taps and leaking loos? Drilling holes and fixing gaps? These small jobs add up to high costs for the parish.

If you are 'handy' with small jobs and would be willing to help from time to time, could you pass your name and telephone number and what handy skills you have, and we will contact you if the need arises. Thank you so much, this will be a great help to the whole parish community!

Parish Liturgy

Please check where Holy Mass is each day as everything is subject to change!

Sunday	15th September	Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	George Sadler Snr.
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Parishioners
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Tomasz Osinski
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Marie Comer
Monday	16th September		
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Bob Douglas
Tuesday	17th September		
12.30	Funeral Service	St Michael	John Buckley
Wednesday	18th September		
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Philomena Harvey
Thursday	19th September		
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Thanksgiving (DR)
Friday	20th September		
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Michael Hindley
Saturday	14th September		
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Marie Clemson
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Josie Dockerty
Sunday	15th September	Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Wilson
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Anthony Murphy
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mgr. Charles Glass
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Special Intention
St Basil	Mgr. Michael McKenna
St John Fisher	Sick and Housebound
St Michael	In Thanksgiving

Requiescant in pace

Thomas McDermott
Barbara Flanagan

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

St Basil & All Saints: Local Ecumenical Partnership

Liverpool Diocese have always been blessed by the ecumenical relationship we share with the Archdiocese, and the opportunity to work together in the Local Ecumenical Partnership of St Basil and All Saints is just one example of how this relationship has been lived out in the local community for over four decades. Some remarkable work has taken place since this partnership was formed, and for this we remain thankful to those who held and developed the vision for such a partnership, benefiting both church and wider community.

However, the LEP is now 40 years old, and today we find ourselves facing new challenges amid significant pressure on finance and resources, none of which could have been foreseen when the LEP was first established in 1983.

To that end, All Saints PCC have concluded that it is no longer viable for them to continue, and I can confirm that we have now entered into a period of consultation and discussion with the Archdiocese to address All Saints withdrawal from the LEP. The decision has not been taken lightly, and while there is significant sadness, all parties agree this to be the best option. The process will take some time, and we are currently very much at the start of the conversation. Rev Peter Dawkin will be moving to a new post at St Luke Farnworth on the 23rd Sept, his final service in St Basil & All Saints being 22nd. All Saints will, however, remain part of the LEP until such a time as the withdrawal process is concluded.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to work on the process with Fr Mark and others, and equally grateful to the congregations of St Basil and All Saints, both past and present, for their faithful commitment to the LEP over so many years. I'm more than happy to have a conversation to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Of your charity, could I ask you to commit the process to prayer.

With assurance of prayer,

Fr Harry, Associate Archdeacon St Helens & Warrington.

U.C.M. Book Sale

There will be a book sale in the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher, after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 21st September, also tea and coffee will be available. Come in and have a cuppa and buy a book! All proceeds will go to the Union of Catholic Mother's Charity!

St. Michael's Church Heating

Recently a heating engineer came to St. Michael's Church to service the heating system. The outcome of that visit was that the entire heating system at St. Michael's Church has been condemned and can no longer be used. We immediately contacted the Surveyors Department, and we are currently exploring different options for the heating of the church. We are going to work/consult and be advised by the Archdiocesan Trustees and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Organisation Committee in discerning the way forward. We will keep you informed as we learn more about the situation. The Vision Group

Holy Family Parish

Recently, I have returned from my three-month sabbatical break, hopefully refreshed and renewed. I would like to personally thank all the priests from St Wilfrid's Parish but especially Fr. Mark for all the help they provided which enabled me to be away. As a 'Family of Parishes', we are called to share our resources and help when help is needed in our different parish communities. May we continue to be a support as we go forward. Gratefully, Fr. Michael McCormick

4th Widnes (St. Bede's) Scout Group – Macmillan Coffee Morning

The 4th Widnes (St. Bede's) Scout Headquarters, Appleton Village are holding a coffee morning on Friday 27th September - 10.30 till 12.30, to raise funds for this worthy cause. All are welcome!