

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

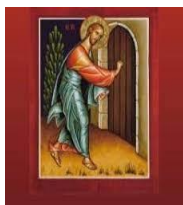
18th December 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year A

“Listen!  
I am standing  
at the door  
knocking.”

Rev 3:20



## Clergy Team

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Facebook: Parish of St Wilfrid Widnes  
<https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridswidnes>  
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St Wilfrid's Parish Office  
St Bede's Presbytery  
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Sylvia Cawley  
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## Second collection – St Vincent de Paul Society

# My road to the Priesthood

Coming home from Osterley I had an interview with Archbishop Beck the results of which was an offer of a place at 'The Pontifical English College in Lisbon, Portugal. 'Founded in 1622 during the Reformation to train priests for the missions in England. Our studies and formation would last for six years, returning home every two years.

12 students sailed with me from Southampton, a trip of three days through the Bay of Biscay to Lisbon. What a trip, everyone was seasick, no one had prepared us for the rough waters through the Bay of Biscay. We arrived in one piece at the port of Lisbon where some of the professors were waiting to take us by taxi to the Pontifical English College in 'Barrio Alto' which overlooked the city down to the port of Lisbon. Inside the college was like stepping back into history, a massive imposing 18th century building that smelt so musty. I was given a room on the top floor with a high bevelled ceiling that overlooked the port. When the Royal Navy was in harbour the college flew the White Ensign from the flat roof of the Observatory.

Our community consisted of 5 priests, The President, four professors and 35 students. My first two years was studying Philosophy with Scripture, Catechetics, Church History, Liturgy, Music, and Portuguese. Thank God all the lectures were in English!! Philosophy was tough and at every exam I sweated blood and tears but somehow survived. For recreation we explored the beautiful city of Lisbon and the beautiful seacoast of Cascaís the Portuguese Riviera.

Our second year began with just 12 students. Some of the senior students had been struggling the year before without a Moral Theology Professor and during their summer holidays transferred to English Seminaries. This shock brought the sad news that the college was to close the following summer and our bishops wrote telling us that we were being transferred to colleges in England. Once more it was time to say goodbye to friends and colleagues and await the news of our future!

Fr. Bill

# Deanery Synodal Council

What has been happening recently? An update from our members....

Hello everybody,

Two gatherings have taken place in recent weeks:

- A meeting, with Archbishop Malcolm, and other Deanery Synodal Council members from across the Archdiocese, to share our thoughts/reactions and observations on the working document produced by the Vatican at this stage of our universal Synod 2021-2024.
- The document is entitled “Enlarge the space of your tent” (Is 54:2)

Working document for the Continental Stage

(Just Google this title to see the document in full if you fancy some Christmas reading!)

- Our second gathering was our bi-monthly Deanery Synodal Council meeting where we gather to share news, updates, thoughts, concerns and hopes on how we are called to continue our Synodal journey here in this place...

**A closing thought to share from one of our gatherings:**

“Synodality is a style, a culture, a way of thinking and being, that reflects the truth that the Church is led by the Holy Spirit who enables everyone to offer their contribution to the Church’s life.”



## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December ~ Advent Carol Service

Come and sing to the coming King with the children of our parish and with joy as we sing 'Gloria' to Jesus! Candles, Carols, Mince Pies, Mulled Wine...what more could you want to get into the Christmas Spirit!

St. Michael's Church at 4pm.

## Come and celebrate the holy season of Advent!

### Office Hours - this week!

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am - 4.30pm
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am - 4.30pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am - 4.30pm
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am - 12noon
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	OFFICE CLOSED

### USED STAMPS

Fr Bill has asked that we put all our used stamps in the boxes provided at back of church.

Thank You



## St. Wilfrid's Advent Appeal 2022

Thank you

Thank you to all who have donated to this year's Advent Appeal, all the items that have been donated will be distributed this week to those who need them so much!  
Bless you all for your generosity of heart!

## Plenty of room at the inn!

The children in all our Catholic Schools have spent the season of Advent preparing and reflecting on the coming feast of Christmas and it is fitting each school has told the Nativity Story by acting, singing, and playing to the Infant King!

It has been a joy to see the children's faces as they have placed themselves into the story of His birth, just wonderful! The children in all their performances, their reflections and in their Collective Worship told that we all need to make space and time for Jesus in our lives, if we are too busy, He may be forgotten.

The staff of our schools may have a few more grey hairs as the pressure is great, but parents, carers and family have been able to marvel in the true spirit of Christmas and the story of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Thank you, children, for reminding us of His birth and that Jesus is with us, you are all just...wonderful!

Children and staff, have a blessed Christmas, keep safe and return in the New Year for a new time of leaning and discovery! May God bless you all!

# Mass Times

***St Bede's Church is open for private prayer Mon-Fri 10am-13:00pm***

## Sunday 18th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.00am Holy Mass (St Bede) – Thomas Jackson (6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
9.30am Holy Mass (St Michael) – Elizabeth Lawler (Lately Dead)  
10.30am Holy Mass (St John Fisher) – Marie Cullerton (Anniversary)  
11.15am Holy Mass (St Bede) – James Goss (Birthday Remembrance)  
16:00pm Holy Mass (St Bede) – Fouad Mouarkach (Anniversary)

## Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December

9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Morning Prayer (St. Basil)  
9.30am Holy Mass (St Basil) –Lynn Brennan

## Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*St Bede*)  
11.40am Holy Rosary (*St Bede*)  
12 Noon Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Norah and Robert Warren (Remembrance)

## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*St Bede*)  
11.40am Holy Rosary (*St Bede*)  
7.00pm Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – James Syze (Anniversary)

## Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

**10.30am Requiem Mass – St Bede - Mary Ellen Leatherbarrow**  
11.30am Exposition the Blessed Sacrament (*St Michael*)  
11.40am Holy Rosary (*St. Michael*)  
12 Noon Holy Mass (*St. Michael*) – Edith and Charles Cawk (Anniversary)

## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

09.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*St. John Fisher*)  
09.10am Morning Prayer (*St. John Fisher*)  
09.30am Holy Mass (*St. John Fisher*) – Mary Hammond (Anniversary)

## Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December **Christmas Eve**

6pm – St. Basil – Family and Friends, near and far  
6pm – St. John Fisher – Tom Baker (Anniversary)  
6pm – St. Bede – John Woodward (Lately Dead)  
8pm – St. Michael – Special Intention  
Midnight – St. Bede – Deceased Members of Burke and Mc Mannion Families

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December **Christmas Day**

9am – St. Basil – William Adrian Glynn (Remembrance)  
10am – St. Bede – Kevin Dolan (Lately Dead)  
10am – St. Michael – Kathleen and William O' Brien (Birthday Remembrance)  
10am – St. John Fisher – Winifred Flanagan (Anniversary)

### Sanctuary Lamp

*The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.*

**St Bede:** Mary Davies  
**St Basil:** Joseph Davies  
**St John Fisher:** John Davies  
**St Michael:** Joan Wilcox

**Please pray for those who have recently died...**

**Margaret Brennan, Honora Evans  
and Trevor Garner**

***May they rest in peace and rise in glory!***