

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



**Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees**

24th September 2023

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Responsorial Psalm

R. 'The Lord is close to all who call him'

Age is only a number!

This year I will be celebrating what I call a significant Birthday. 🎂

It's only a week away before I celebrate 80 years of my life... Can I believe it? No!

In my head I'm telling myself it's only a number. Some people say that I don't look my age, I thank my mother for that; she always looked ten years younger considering the hard life she had bringing up eight children. So, whether I accept it or not, I'll be 80 on 2nd of October.

Since January I have been constantly asked the question by family and friends: "what are you planning to celebrate your 80th?" I always want to reply, "I have no idea," but that cuts no ice. With such a large family on both side of the Irish Sea, I have come up with the idea of having small celebrations beginning with an open house on the day itself at 2 Sefton Ave.

If you are free, my door will be wide open with a welcome cuppa or something stronger if you prefer. From 10.30 to 3pm. Do come. 🍵 🍰 🍷 🍸

Fr Bill

Parish Choir

The next meetings of our Parish Choir are Monday 25th September, Tuesday 24th October & Monday 27th November at 7pm in St Bede's Church. As usual all are welcome, even if you have not sung before, or been a part of this group previously, or you are only available to come along occasionally. All are welcome!

Journey into Prayer

There is an exciting opportunity for everyone to experience new ways of praying being offered at the Cenacle Convent from January to July next year. The group meets twice a month to explore a particular way of praying. There are information leaflets at the back of all the churches should you like to know more.

St Bede's Church – The Next Chapter

At last, after many years, we have reached the stage of appointing an Architect/Surveyor to supervise the restoration of St Bede's. Work will begin at St Bede's in the very near future, and we are busily trying to clear away what needs to be cleared to give the contractors as much help as we can. We are studying the criteria for grants with the local authority, so that the overall cost is kept to a minimum. We are in touch with the Historic Churches Commission and other relevant bodies to ensure that we are not contravening the integral fabric of this sacred space, and we always take professional advice whenever something is restored or moved as we wish to make prudent decisions that honour this historic place of worship. Much work is happening behind the scenes as we try to safeguard St Bede's for future generations.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will all need to be ready to adapt and change; we will have to endure inconveniences and things will not be as they were before. I suggest that we all try to keep focused on the bigger picture and when we see things changing, let us be the voice of positivity and hope and never the voice of complaint that undermines the good that is happening in our midst.

Fr Mark and the Buildings Committee

St Bede's Church – Volunteers

The grounds and gardens around St. Bede's Church are kept beautifully by a small group of volunteers. But like everywhere else, with all the rain and then bursts of sunshine the weeds around the church building are taking hold! Could anyone who is free on Saturday 7th October at 10.30am meet outside Church with a hoe or shovel or spade, (can you tell I am not a natural gardener!) and we will attempt to have a tidy up before winter comes!

Fr Mark

Weekday Winter Timetable

When the clocks go back on Sunday 29th October, we feel it is the right time to alter the weekday Mass times slightly; the nights are drawing in and it is cold!

Monday – 9.30am at St Basil

Tuesday – 12 noon at St Bede

Wednesday – **12 noon at St Bede**

Thursday – 12 noon at St Michael (*Mass will take place in the sacristy as we can heat that area of church and not have to heat the whole building*)

Friday – 9.30am at St John Fisher

Saturday – 10am at St Bede

We shall endeavor with very old heating systems to keep the churches warm as we approach the winter months, but please wrap up and be sensible. If it is very cold or icy, stay at home; God will understand!

The Clergy Team

Requiescant in pace

Tomasz Osinski, Raymond Ellis, Thomas Weaver,
Tereance Delaney

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Irene Dedrick
St Michael	Phil Meade
St John Fisher	Migrants and Refugees
St Basil	Victims of Disasters

Bene Merenti Award

Pauline Ruth

It is with great joy and with the warmest of congratulations that I can announce that Pauline Ruth has been awarded the *Bene Merenti* medal by His Holiness, Pope Francis. This award is a 'Gold Medal' for 'Exemplary Christian Service'. Pauline does so much to safeguard our community and we know her work with refugees and migrants is at the heart of her Christian vocation of service. Pauline, we applaud you! Bishop Tom Neylon will join us on **Wednesday 11th October at St Bede's Church, at 7pm** to celebrate Holy Mass and bestow the award on Pauline. Please make a note of this date and make every effort to attend.

After Mass there will be a reception in the presbytery with cake and bubbles!

Fr Mark

LGBTQ+ Mass

The next gathering for LGBTQ+ Catholics will be on **Sunday 8th October at 2pm** at St. Bede's Church, Appleton Village, WA8 6EL. All are welcome to attend and after Mass there will be refreshments served in the Guild Hall.

World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees

This Sunday we mark the 109th World Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants. The Holy Father has chosen the theme '*Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay*'. Today is an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move, to pray for them as they face their many challenges; to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. The Pope's message can be found on <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-francis-message-for-the-world-day-ofmigrants-and-refugees/>

"Lord, make us bearers of hope!"

Warrington and Widnes Deanery - Families of Parishes

As part of the Synodal journey we have formed our families of parishes for our deanery; to work together, to listen and respond to the needs of the church in our area.

Parishes of Widnes and Cronton

Parishes – St Wilfrid's, Widnes, and Holy Family, Cronton

Churches – St Basil, St. Bede, St. Michael, St. John Fisher, and Holy Family.

What Is Synodality?

During the month of October, bishops from all over the world will meet in Rome for the first of two Synod gatherings, the culmination of a two-year process of listening and discernment which has involved every diocese in the world, including our own. For the first time, lay men and women will also participate in these gatherings with the bishops. The theme of the gathering is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission". You can find more information on the Bishops' Conference website: www.cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church

Canon Dave Heywood, Dean

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	24th Sept	Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Richards (2 nd Ann)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Tony Gray (LD)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Mary Rath (Ann)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ian Valentine Pemberton (Ann)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	S.V.P
Monday	25th Sept	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Marie Elizabeth Golson (Birthday Rem)
Tuesday	26th Sept	Ferial	
10.00	Funeral Service	St John Fisher	Raymond Ellis
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Anne Catherine Hurst
Wednesday	27th Sept	Memorial of St Vincent de Paul, Priest	
18.30	Exposition and Evening Prayer		
19.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Kate Yeo (LD)
Thursday	28th Sept	Ferial	
11.00	Funeral Service	St Bede	Thomas James Weaver
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Margaret Mary Mulroy (Ann)
Friday	29th Sept	Feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Margaret & Gerald Gornall
10.30	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Tereance Delaney
14.00	School Mass	St Michael	
Saturday	30th Sept	Memorial of St Jerome, Priest and Doctor	
10.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	David Lambe (LD)
10.30	Confessions		
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Sheila Milliard (1 st Ann)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	Parishioners
Sunday	1st Oct	Twenty Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ken Gibbons (Birthday & Ann Rem)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Fr James Moore
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Nicola
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Rowena Plant (Hart) (Sick)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jim Burke (100 th Birthday Rem)