

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

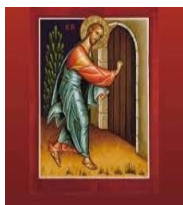
26th March 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year A

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

Rev 3:20



Clergy Team

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Bishop John Rawsthorne 0151 424 2738

Fr. Bill Murphy 0151 495 1854

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Facebook: Parish of St Wilfrid Widnes

<https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridswidnes>

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/>

St Wilfrid's Parish Office

St Bede's Presbytery

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Psalm - Please join in the response:

‘With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption’.

‘The Builder of all Things is God’.

One of the only advantages of being away from the parish for several weeks at a time is that upon your return, you notice even the most minuscule of changes.

But the works that have taken place at St John Fisher and St Michael's in recent weeks are far from minuscule. Thanks to a small army of volunteers, a strong and infectious dose of good-will and a lot of planning behind the scenes, we are gradually breathing new life into our sacred spaces.

The interior of St John Fisher has been completely repainted to complement the internal reordering of the sanctuary last year. The nave of St Michael's has been thoroughly cleaned and repainted, in readiness for the return of the Stations of the Cross, after a painstaking restoration and reframing. The historic portrait collection from St Patrick's, depicting twelve well-known saints, have been reunited under one roof and will be available to see in all their glory this weekend at St Michael's.

These sacred spaces, with their sometimes-daunting maintenance costs, should never be viewed as a millstone around our neck. Our churches, where we come to pray in times of joy, sorrow, and everything in between, are mirrors that reflect the strength and vibrancy of the community of the faithful. In the Catholic patrimony entrusted to our care, we appreciate the treasures of the past and look to build towards the future with confidence in the Lord.

“For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God”.

Hebrews 3: 4

Fr. Thomas

Parish Archives – make your family part of it.

Our Catholic heritage in Widnes goes back a long, long way.

We now have a dedicated space to store all the archives and historical memorabilia relating to all the former parishes in Widnes.

The archives include items such as, photographs, booklets, artefacts, parish notices going back over 100 years.

Now is the chance for you to get involved and ensure that your family is included in these records.

If you have something that you believe would enhance our archives (this may be an artefact from one of the churches or a photograph of a parish event such as a First Holy Communion, May Procession, Wedding etc.) and would like it to be stored in the Parish archives then send your item with as much information as possible (family names, date, church etc.) to the Parish office marked Parish Archives.

Get involved and ensure that your family is included in the historical records for decades to come.

DONATIONS – THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have donated money to the restoration fund for the upkeep of our churches in recent months. It is an exciting time in our parish now, lots of things seem to be happening and your financial assistance helps so much! Many of the donations have been anonymous, but they are all gratefully received and put towards our churches!

CHRISM MASS Wednesday 5th April

The Chrism Mass is a highlight of Holy Week, the Archbishop with the Priests, Deacons & Faithful from all over the diocese, gather in the cathedral for the consecration of the Holy Oils that will be used in the parishes of the diocese for baptisms, confirmations, anointing of the sick and ordinations to the priesthood during the next 12 months. It is a very special occasion.

A coach will leave St. Bede's Church at 6pm and if you would like to book a place on the bus, please pop your name and telephone number into the Parish Office with an offering of £5 towards the cost of the coach marked 'CHRISM MASS'. We should arrive home around 9.30pm.

If you have never been to the Chrism Mass before, please think of coming and experiencing this once-a-year event in our beautiful Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King!

WALK OF WITNESS Palm Sunday, 2nd April at 3pm St. John Fisher Church

Will you walk in witness to your faith?

Will you change your timetable on Palm Sunday to walk with Jesus?

Please come, do not say 'this is not for me' or 'I don't go to things like that' – we are entering Holy Week on Palm Sunday, be an active witness to your faith!

Please come and Walk in Witness!

LENTEN JOURNEY...

Monday 27th March, 7pm at St. Basil's Church

Walking to Calvary – through different voices, light and music we are invited to walk with Jesus to Calvary. We shall hear the voices of those around Him on that day and reflect on our part in the story of Calvary.

Tuesday 28th March 11.15pm at St. Bede's Church

Stations of the Cross – Traditional Stations of the Cross will be recited and prayed before Holy Mass at noon.

Wednesday 29th March, 7am at St. Bede's Church

Early Riser Mass – come and celebrate Holy Mass in the still of the morning.

Wednesday, 7.30pm at St. Bede Presbytery – Scripture Group

Friday 31st March, 1pm at St. Michael's Church

Stations of the Cross – Traditional Stations of the Cross will be recited and prayed together.

Please come and walk with Him!



Parish Choir

We will be preparing for the Easter Services at our next gatherings which will be on:

Tuesday, 28th March, St Bede, 7.00pm

Tuesday, 4th April, St Bede, 7.00pm

As usual, everyone is very welcome, even if you have not sung before, or been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

Monday 3rd April at 7pm

St. Bede's Church

Everyone will have the opportunity for individual confession, and we shall hear the words of Jesus...

"Your sins are forgiven, go in peace"

Where do the Neocatechumens meet in Widnes?

There are two communities in Widnes. The 1st community consists of about 38 people of all ages, who meet every other Tuesday for the Liturgy of the Word at 8:00 pm at St. Basil's. The 2nd community comprises primarily young adults, who meet on alternate Wednesdays for the Liturgy of the Word at 7.30 pm at St Basil's.

Both communities meet on a Saturday night at St John Fisher Hall for a Eucharistic celebration.

The day of communion, or convivence, as it's known, is often spent in community spaces outside of Widnes. Sometimes in Bryn, near Aston-in-Makerfield, other times in the Lancashire village of Brindle.

Adult catechesisII

In May 2023, the Neocatechumens will begin a catechesis program in St John Fisher Hall. This period of catechesis will consist of 15 evening catechesis, two evenings a week, with each session lasting between 45 minutes to an hour. This induction to the Neocatechumenate concludes after seven weeks with a weekend retreat, where participants can decide if they'd like to continue by joining a new community and so begin this journey of baptismal rediscovery.

More details will follow about the exact dates of these talks.

In the meantime, you'd be very welcome to come along to a Eucharistic celebration or experience a Liturgy of the Word. If you'd like to attend either or both, please contact **Frank Allen at 07793891516**, who'll be able to give you exact times and dates.

If you'd like to find out more about the Neocatechumenal Way, its founders and its history - please visit <https://neocatechumenaleiter.org/en/>

BUY A LILY FOR EASTER



We want the altars in all our churches to look as beautiful as possible to celebrate the greatest feast of the Church's year. Lilies are associated with Easter, a symbol of new life and resurrection.

If you could buy a lily in memory of a loved one at a cost of **£5**, then please pass the name that you would like to be remembered into the parish office. All names will be displayed in all the churches for all donations made. God bless you for your generosity, please mark your envelope '**EASTER FLOWERS**'.

Can you help?

My name is Hannah Moriarty, and I am an altar server and Eucharistic Minister in the parish. I am currently in my final year at Carmel College and for my final drama exam I need to create a piece of theatre and we need your help.

We are collecting stories, memories, diary entries etc and any pieces of music related to it all from the 1970's to aid us in the development of our piece.

I would be eternally grateful if you could help us in this process and any small thing would be appreciated.

If you have anything to share, please email me at hannahmoriarty51@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Thank you and God Bless!

Parish Liturgy

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

Sunday 26th March

9.00am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Jean Finn - Anniversary
9.30am Holy Mass (*St Michael*) – Parishioners
10.30am Holy Mass (*St John Fisher*) – Patrick Rice – Lately Dead
11.15am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Mary Bebbington - Anniversary
16:00 Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Christina Murphy

Monday 27th March

9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Morning Prayer (*St. Basil*)
9.30am Holy Mass (*St Basil*) – Denis Murray, 5th Anniversary

Tuesday 28th March

10:30am Funeral Service – (St Bede) – Margaret Harrison
11.15am Stations of the Cross (*St Bede*)
12 Noon Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Patrick Waller, Birthday Remembrance

Wednesday 29th March

7.00am Holy Mass – (*St Bede*) – Gladys Margaret Owen
18.30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Evening Prayer
19.00 Holy Mass - (*St Bede*) – Mary Tollett

Thursday 30th March

11.30am Exposition the Blessed Sacrament (*St Michael*)
11.40am Holy Rosary (*St. Michael*)
12 Noon Holy Mass (*St. Michael*) – The Earle Family

Friday 31st March

09.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*St. John Fisher*)
09.10am Morning Prayer (*St. John Fisher*)
09.30am Holy Mass (*St. John Fisher*) – Eddie Burke, 25th Anniversary
14.00 Requiem Mass – (St Basil) – Antony Swift

Saturday 1st April

10.00am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Residents of Care Homes
10.30am Confessions and Rosary (*St Bede*)
17.00 Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Gary Crosson
17.00 Holy Mass (*St Basil*) – Pat Sharkey, Lately Dead

Sunday 2nd April – PALM SUNDAY

9.00am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Ruth Bibby, 2nd Anniversary
9.30am Holy Mass (*St Michael*) –Maureen Allen
10.30am Holy Mass (*St John Fisher*) – Parishioners
11.15am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Ellen (Eileen) Cooke, Lately dead
16:00 Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Colin Duffy, Lately Dead

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede: **Cecilia McMullen**
St Basil: **Archbishop Malcolm**
St John Fisher: **Refugees and Migrants**
St Michael: **Anne & Frank Noone**

Please pray for those who have recently died...

**Martyn Rigby, Stephen Rossitor,
Jane Bissenden, and Catherine Price**

May they rest in peace and rise in glory!