

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Second Collection : S.V.P

29th October 2023

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Responsorial Psalm

R. 'I love you, Lord, my strength'

Lay ministry at Funerals in the Dioceses of Hallam and Liverpool

The Diocese of Hallam was founded in 1980. It consists of the whole county of South Yorkshire, together with parts, small parts, of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The principal towns are Doncaster, Barnsley, Rotherham & Sheffield in S. Yorks, Chesterfield in Derbyshire, and Worksop in Notts. In the not-too-distant past it was coal mining country, and steel. The huge demise of the mines hit the area very badly, as did the strikes which came before. By the time I came to Widnes, there was not a single working mine in the area of the Diocese.

The Catholic population in the area is one of the lowest in the country as a percentage of the population. Not quite clear why, though some would say that Irish immigration into the area was less than in other parts. Having said that, I could not understand how there was anybody left in Mayo! Low Catholic population means that parishes have to cover a significant area to be viable, apart from in large towns of course. Take the Dearne Valley for example, a small church at either end and one in the middle, and each with a small primary school. We only needed two of the schools, but the third was very important to the wider community, so we kept it open with almost no Catholic children. Then the move was to one Governing Body for the three schools, and finally to an executive Headteacher over all three. And the parishes amalgamated under one parish priest, who could easily have been worn to a frazzle in no time. One of a number of approaches he took was to take up the offer of the Diocese to train laypeople for funeral ministry. If it was a Requiem Mass, they could minister at the cemetery or Crem afterwards, but if it was a Funeral Service, in church or at the crematorium, they could take the service. There was a certain amount of trepidation at the beginning, but it gradually became well accepted. I got to know one of the women who was very involved, and she had lovely stories about her ministry. It was a new dimension to lay ministry, as well as an important service to the parish

Sister Eileen Moore, working with Fr Peter Fox in Whiston, would tell the same story. She found that her ministry at funerals was very well received and much appreciated. Who would have dreamed even twenty years ago that we would have changed that much.

Bishop John

UCM Book Sale

We would like to thank everybody who attended our Book Sale on the morning of Sunday 22 October.

The Sale made £65 which will be going towards UCM charities.

Liturgy Meeting

There will be a meeting of the parish liturgy group on Tuesday 7th November at 7.30pm at St. Bede's Presbytery.

Could members of this group make every effort to attend.

Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land

Could we commit ourselves to pray this prayer each day for peace?

Father of peace, as war devastates lives in the Middle East at this time, we cry out to you for shelter and protection for those involved. Shine your light of hope into the darkness for those who are afraid.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

Prince of peace, where your footsteps once fell and the lands around, let your steps to peace be revealed to the leaders, bringing a speedy and Godly end to this war. Strengthen the hands of those helping and caring for others affected.

In your love, hear our prayers.

Spirit of peace, spread out your wings of comfort covering all those who mourn, Israelis and Palestinians. Bring healing in your wings for all those who are injured.

In your grace, hear our prayers.

God of Peace, rest in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank we pray. Let your tender mercy, strong love and amazing grace be the water that soaks the land for all in these days.

In your faithfulness, hear our prayers.

Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

In Jesus' name, we trust and pray.

Amen.

Families of Parishes Roadshow

The Pastoral Plan outlines a path forward for the Church in our Archdiocese. It envisions the creation of "Families of Parishes" as the next step in strengthening our faith community. To provide a comprehensive understanding of this concept, the Archdiocese has scheduled three informative roadshows, open to everyone interested in the future of the Church.

The roadshows will take place at the following locations and times: Saturday 4 November, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Sefton Park, Liverpool; Tuesday 7 November, 7.00 – 9.00 pm at St Anne's Pastoral Centre in Ormskirk; and Wednesday 8 November, 7.00 – 9.00 pm at St Julie's Eccleston, St Helens. If you have questions or would like further clarification about this emerging strategy, please do attend one of the upcoming open meetings.

Fr Dave Heywood, Dean

Requiescant in pace

Martin Wynn, Patrica Conlon,
Maria Atherton. Valerie Fanning, Anne Edge,
John McGillicuddy & Joan Frances McGowan

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Claire Burns
St Michael	Holy Souls
St John Fisher	Ian Cawley
St Basil	Clergy Team

Walsingham Christmas Meal

For all those joining us on our Pilgrimage to Walsingham, you need to choose what you would like from the Christmas menu. Please find your menu choice at the back of church.

Please only take a menu if you are booked on to our pilgrimage.

Please put your choice of starter, main and dessert, along with any allergies or dietary needs you have in an envelope with your name and pass into the parish office ASAP. Many Thanks

Susan Warburton

Going into Hospital

Please, if you are going into hospital for elective surgery or treatment and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please request it from any of the priests **BEFORE** you go. At present there is not the capacity to have a RC priest on call 24 hours a day in our hospitals, so though you may receive a visit from a chaplain whilst you are in hospital, they may not be a priest and therefore unable to offer the Sacrament of the Sick.

If someone you know is at the end of life and they need a priest, to assist them on their final journey, then please request this as soon as possible; do not leave it to the last minute as a priest may not be available.

November Pious Lists

Please, could all Pious Lists be returned in their envelopes as soon as possible to the parish office so that they can be included in the November prayers for our deceased loved ones.

Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage 2024 July 18th - 27th 2024

Applications to join next year's "yellow t-shirts" are now open online (liverpoolourdesyouth.co.uk). Young people from Warrington and Widnes parishes, aged between 15 and 22 at the time of travel, are invited to travel with Coach 6. Deposit is £100, paid at the time of application. Email Dan Antonio, Coach Leader, for more information - lourdescoach6@gmail.com, and follow the coach on Facebook, X (formally Twitter) - @lourdescoach6, and Instagram - coach6lourdes.

Inauguration of New Co-Cathedral

Pope Francis has granted cathedral status to the Church of St Mary of the Isle in the Isle of Man.

The inauguration of our new co-cathedral will take place this Friday, 3 November, at 12.00 noon. At the start of the ceremony, Archbishop Malcolm and the Apostolic Nuncio will knock on the church door to gain admittance. The Nuncio will proclaim the decree from Pope Francis elevating the church to cathedral status and then install Archbishop Malcolm in his seat or 'cathedra'. The Canons of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter will then take their seats in the choir stalls.

You will be able to watch this historic occasion online here: <https://t.co/QzH3XGAIRh>

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	29th Oct	Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Harry Taylor (Ann)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	William Hickey (45 th Ann)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mary Florence Reid (B'day Rem)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Buckley (Speedy Rec)
Monday	30th Oct	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Eric Prescott (LD)
Tuesday	31st Oct	Ferial	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jaquie Williams (LD)
Wednesday	1st Nov	Solemnity of All Saints (Holyday of Obligation)	
07.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Brenda Thistlewaite (LD)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Pat Allen (Ann and B'day)
12.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Mary Attwodd (LD)
19.00	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Kathleen Bold (LD)
Thursday	2nd Nov	Commemoration of all Faithful Departed	
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Michael	Joan Mulroy (Ann)
<i>(Holy Mass will be celebrated in the sacristy)</i>			
Friday	3rd Nov	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Lin Carney
12.00	Funeral Service	St Michael	Marie Atherton
Saturday	4th Nov	Memorial of St Charles Borromeo, Bishop	
10.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Raymond Ellis (LD)
<i>(Holy Mass for the Dead and Blessing of Graves)</i>			
10.30	Confessions		
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Ann and Hugh Brennan (Ann)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	Bernard Kelly (4 th Ann)
Sunday	5th Nov	Thirty First Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Robert Milliard (3 rd Ann)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Eileen Brennan (1 st Ann)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Holy Souls
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Jean Rimmer (Ann)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners