

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

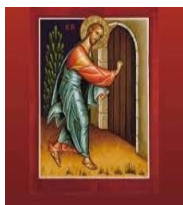
2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

Palm Sunday

Year A

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

Rev 3:20



## Clergy Team

Fr. Mark Moran (PP, Moderator) 0151 513 0024

Bishop John Rawsthorne 0151 424 2738

Fr. Bill Murphy 0151 495 1854

Fr. Thomas Clarke 0151 424 6641

Fr. Philip Carr (Priest in Residence) 0151 424 4021

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Parish Website: [stwilfridswidnes.uk](http://stwilfridswidnes.uk)

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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Office Manager

Sylvia Cawley

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Deb Kenna

**Psalm** - Please join in the response:

***'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?'***

## Music – raising our hearts and minds to God!

Last Saturday evening I accompanied Bishop John to the Parish Church at the Pier Head in Liverpool to listen to a free performance of Bach's 'St Matthew's Passion' performed by the 'Liverpool Bach Collective'. Bishop John was invited by the Rector Canon Crispin Pailing to say a prayer before and after the performance. I must admit that in all my years living in Liverpool I've never visited this beautiful gem of a church associated with seafarers.

What caught my eye as I stepped inside was statue of Our Lady (by sculptor Arthur Dooley) standing in the brow of a ship. The Rector was there to greet us. Bishop John is a familiar face to St Nicholas celebrating Mass there sometimes on a Friday. As I turned to find myself a seat in the body of the church the Rector took hold of my arm and led me to the front row, where seats were reserved for special guests. One seat was empty, and I was invited to join them!

Looking round I spotted some familiar faces; some I hadn't seen in years. One was the director of music Philip Duffy, a former 'Master of Music' at the Metropolitan Cathedral. I first met Philip when after my ordination in 1975 I was appointed to the Cathedral as a junior member of the staff. One of my responsibilities was Chaplain to the choir.

'St Matthew's Passion' is the longest and most intense religious works written by Bach. Although I have a copy at home in my CD collection, I have to admit I've never listened to it all the way through. The live performance on Saturday was electrifying, I was so engrossed in the performance, in the quality of the singing, the soloists, the whole evening was superb. So much so that two and a half hours later I was ready for more, a great evening. At 10.45pm I had to rescue Bishop John and make a hasty retreat knowing that the clocks going forward an hour and Bishop John was on the first Mass!

If you are ever in Liverpool don't forget to visit this gem of the church, and I guarantee you will not be disappointed!

**Fr. Bill**

# Stations of the Cross at St. Michael's

The wait is over.... we hope...as I write this the Stations of the Cross that were removed from St. Michael's Church for restoration, are not back, but we have been promised that they will be returned on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, (hope it isn't an April Fool's joke!). So that we can have the opportunity to bless them and use them as an aid to prayer, we shall have Stations of the Cross on,

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm at St. Michael's Church.**

All are welcome to attend and pray the stations in Holy Week!

## CHRISM MASS

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

## 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'.

## Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Family Cronton

**WA8 5DW - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Start with the rosary at 1pm, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Devotions from 2.30pm – 3.30pm, Stations of the Cross at 3.30pm, concluding with Holy Mass at 4pm. Confessions offered throughout the afternoon.**

**All are welcome to attend!**

## Office Hours - Holy Week!

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am – 4.30pm
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 4.30pm
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 12. noon
Good Friday	Closed

## Parish Choir

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

**Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Catenians

The Catenians are a group of Catholic men who meet socially at their monthly meetings and at other events, often along with their wives. We provide support and fellowship to each other. Warrington Catenians are looking for members, so if you would like to find out more, please see our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Catenians103>

**Bents Garden Centre and Bury Market - Friday, 28th April.**

Our next trip will combine a much-requested visit to Bury Market, and Bents Garden Centre. In the morning you can wander around the traditional market hall with stalls selling fruit, flowers, hardware, clothing, groceries etc. combined with numerous eateries. In the afternoon the coach will take us to Bents, where you can enjoy beautiful garden settings, plants, crafts, in-house shops, and relax with a coffee or a late lunch at one of the delightful cafes. The cost is £15. We leave St. Basil and All Saints at 9.30.am and return at 5.15.pm approximately. If you would like to join us, please put your money in an envelope with your name, address, and telephone number, and give it to Monica (424 8194) or Angela (424 8668) All profits to Gift of Life for Zambia.  
Thank you once again for your generosity.

**Widnes Floral Art Group**

hosts

**A free taster flower demonstration**

Wednesday, April 5

7.30pm

Debbie Davies presents.

'Branching Out'

Farnworth Methodist Church Hall,

Derby Road, Widnes

Sales table

Refreshments available

All are welcome.

**Thanking God for Bishop Tom Williams' ministry among us**

You are invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving for Bishop Tom Williams on **Wednesday 17 May at 7pm** at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. All are very welcome.

There will be drinks reception for all after the Mass.

*The Holy See accepted Bishop Williams resignation upon his retirement at the age of 75, on the Feast of the Annunciation.*

**Lourdes Easter Bunny Walk**

Being the centenary year of the Liverpool Lourdes Pilgrimage, it is hoped to be able to take as many assisted pilgrims as possible to Lourdes this year. Hence the Association needing a little more funding.

The Easter Bunny Walk or run will take place on Easter bank holiday Monday 10th April at 11am. Starting and finishing at St Gregory's church Lydiate and it's a gentle flat route to Our Lady's Lydiate and return, approx 5 km. To register for the walk is £7 and the fee will include a set of bunny ears, bottled water and a chocolate bunny. Family entry of up to five £20

If any of your parishioners would like to join in or group, please contact me [Mpmmurphypat@aol.com](mailto:Mpmmurphypat@aol.com) (Pat Murphy) and details and sponsor form can be forwarded. All funds raised from the event will support assisted pilgrims visit the shrine this special year.

Obviously, clergy very welcome to join in on the day!

**The Precious Blood**

Our Bishops have advised that it is now permissible to resume offering Holy Communion from the Chalice of the Precious Blood, interrupted because of the COVID epidemic.

The Church has always taught that the Lord is fully present under both Species and can therefore be received under either.

But it has also taught that the reception of both the Host and the Precious Blood shows forth the fullness of the sacramental symbolism.

So, the Chalice will again be offered here in St Wilfrid's parish, beginning at St Michael's Church at the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday evening.

The decision whether to receive the Precious Blood is up to each individual person, and it will be very understandable if there are those who are still hesitant about receiving from the chalice.

**USHAW/HOLY ISLAND TRIP**

There is a letter for all those who are going on the pilgrimage to the northeast on 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

The letters are in the sacristies of all the churches and in the Parish Office, to be collected.

We look forward to spending time together following in the footsteps of the northern saints!

# Liturgy for Holy Week



## Palm Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April

- 9am – Holy Mass, St. Bede – Ruth Bibby 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
3pm – WALK OF WITNESS, St. John Fisher  
4pm – Holy Mass, St. Bede – Colin Duffy

## Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

- 9.30am – Holy Mass, St. Basil – Terence Hyland, Lately Dead  
7pm – RECONCILIATION SERVICE, St. Bede

## Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

- 12noon – Holy Mass, St. Bede – Josie Dallman, Lately Dead  
7pm – STATIONS OF THE CROSS, St. Michael

## Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April

CHRISM MASS – depart from St. Bede at 6pm

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April – MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Michael – James and Winefred Mitchell, Christina Kenny, Birthday Remembrance, St. Anthony (Regan and Whelan Family), Edward Casey, Lately Dead and Fr. James Moore

## Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April – GOOD FRIDAY

- 11am – Children's Stations of the Cross, St. John Fisher  
3pm – Passion of the Lord, St. Basil, St. Michael, St. John Fisher and St. Bede  
7.30pm – Watching at the Tomb, St. Bede

## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April – HOLY SATURDAY

8pm – Vigil Mass of the Resurrection, St. Bede – Margaret Jean Rimmer, Birthday Remembrance, Eileen Roberts, Lately Dead, Gerald Quinn, Thanksgiving to Our Lady, Ellen and Frank Noone, 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April – EASTER SUNDAY

- 9am, Holy Mass, St. Basil – Michael and Winnie Burns, Anniversary  
9am – Holy Mass, St. Bede – The O'Grady Family  
9.30am – Holy Mass, St. Michael – Elizabeth Geraghty Anniversary  
10.30am – Holy Mass, St. John Fisher – Fred Topping, 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
11.15am – Holy Mass, St. Bede – Parishioners

### Sanctuary Lamp

**St Basil**  
Refugees and Migrants

**St John Fisher**  
Bishop Tom Williams

**St Michael**  
Margaret Bate

**St Bede**  
Baby George O' Grady