

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



**Twenty Second in Ordinary Time (A)**  
**Next Week: 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Catholic Education**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**

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**Office Manager:**

Sylvia Cawley

**Administrator:**

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## **Responsorial Psalm**

**R. 'For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.'**

### **A new academic year begins.**

And so, the summer holidays are over and our children head back to school for another year of learning and growing in our schools. I hope they are all well rested to face another busy year!

I never seem to get excited about New Year. 1<sup>st</sup> January just opens another month to me, the new year for me begins in September, as it always feels like a new start, the beginning of something, far more so than when 'Big Ben' tolls 12 times on New Years Eve!

Hopefully, the clergy team, catechists, and volunteers have had a rest, and are raring to go! As ever, here at St Wilfrid's we have a busy year ahead, adapting to the changing face and needs of our parish community. Yet this is our call; this is the reality of being a living Christian Community that is constantly reflecting and open to the moving of the Holy Spirit at work amongst us.

In all things, Jesus must be at the centre of all our activity, for with Him all things are possible, yet without Him we can do little.

May God bless us all and all our efforts.

Fr Mark

### **Lourdes Reunion Mass**

Post Lourdes blues? There will be a Mass for those who went to Lourdes this year, but the invitation is extended to all, on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm at St. Mary's, Lowe House, St. Helen's, WA10 2BE.

All are very welcome!

### **Our Deanery**

As part of the Pastoral Plan, the Deaneries across the Archdiocese were reconfigured. Our Deanery now includes the parishes of Warrington, Widnes and Cronton. During the last 18 months, we have begun to work together. Our priests meet once a month. There is a Deanery Mass prior to this meeting, one month in Warrington, the next in Widnes. A Deanery Synodal Council – made up of representatives from each parish in the Deanery – meets bimonthly. Canon David Heywood, Dean

### **The Dreaded Topic of Money!**

Firstly, can I begin by saying that in my time here as your Parish Priest I have been amazed by your generosity. I boast to my fellow priests that the parishioners of St Wilfrid's are kind and generous! One of the hats that I wear here is to safeguard the financial security of our church sites, and as we approach the autumn and winter months, the cost of heating the churches weighs heavy on my mind. Also, the constant bills that we pay to ensure our churches meet all health and safety legislation, the cost of maintaining four large sites, together with general costs and making our churches look loved, cared for and beautiful is a big responsibility.

*The average weekly collection is:*

*St. Bede £1600, St. Basil £250, St. John Fisher £160, St. Michael £350*

*Weekly Direct Debit from whole parish - £896*

*Average weekly collection for the whole parish - £2360*

This does not meet our weekly expenditure.

We are simply asking you all to reflect on what you give each week could you increase what you put in, even just by a couple of pounds? If we all did, the difference would help. Please, just think about it and if you can, great, if you cannot, thank you for what you give. Money is never easy to talk about, it is awkward and slightly embarrassing, so please read this notice in the spirit which it is written and help and give if you can.

Fr Mark

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

#### **R.C.I.A.**

*Are you thinking about becoming a Roman Catholic?*

*Would you like to know more?*

*Would you like a space and time to ask questions?*

*Are you a Catholic who wishes to know more about your faith?*

The **R.C.I.A.** is a process of accompanying people in their faith journey, there is no expectation or pressure, rather a 'walking with' model of deepening faith and exploring the vast treasures of the Roman Catholic Church.

If you, or you know someone who is interested in starting this time of discernment then please pass your name, address and telephone number into the parish office or e mail [stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk) and one of the **R.C.I.A.** Team will contact you, answer any questions you may have and let you know when the group will meet!

Make a leap of faith and start a wonderful journey!

### Requiescant in pace

Joan Kelly  
Thomas Weaver  
Elizabeth Bellard

### Sanctuary Lamp

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

St Bede: Baby George O'Grady  
St Michael: Special Intention (CN)  
St John Fisher: In Thanksgiving  
St Basil: For all Clergy

### Jesus Christ Superstar!

On **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October** we shall go to see 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at the Liverpool Empire Theatre! A coach will pick us up from St. Bede Church at **6pm** and after the show will return us home. We have ordered seats in the stalls and the cost of a ticket and a seat on the coach is £30pp.

If you would like to come, please pass your name, telephone number and money into the parish office as soon as possible. We expect a lot of people will want to come and see the show and tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Please mark your envelope for the attention of 'SUSAN WARBURTON'.

### Warrington and Widnes Deanery Mass

On **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September** at **12 noon** the deanery priests will gather for Mass at **St. John Fisher Church** for Holy Mass and afterwards they will have their monthly deanery meeting.

Please make a special effort to attend this Mass as it is a time to pray for the whole deanery of Warrington and Widnes and for the ongoing collaboration between priests and people.

### Synodal Council

On Tuesday evening the members of the Parish Synodal Council will meet with Fr Philip Inch, Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Development.

We have been asked to present to the Archdiocesan Synodal Gathering in November to tell the story of our parish here in Widnes and the journey that we have been on in forming the Parish of St. Wilfrid.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share who we are as a parish and how we try to build the Kingdom of God in this place.

### Education Sunday Prayer

Dear Lord thank you for the gift of Catholic schools.

Thank you for all those who have given their talents to educating our young people. Through the challenges they encounter each day, lead them to an ever-deeper appreciation of the sacred duty to which you have called them.

Thank you for all those who contribute to the efficient running of our schools: support staff, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, governors, and chaplains.

We thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you for all those who lead our Catholic schools. May they be people of integrity so that they can be witnesses as well as teachers. We pray that the schools they lead will become places where our young people can experience your love in their lives.

Thank you for our pupils. May your love strengthen and nurture them through the influence and example of those who care for them. We pray that through their time at school they will flourish and grow to discover who you have called them to be.

We make our prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher, and our Lord.

Amen.

## Parish Liturgy

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Pauline & Paddy Ruth (50 <sup>th</sup> Wed Ann)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Elizabeth Geraghty & Patricia Mary King
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Joe Houghton (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann.)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
<b>Monday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	
09.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Theresa Brindley
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Michael O'Brien (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann.)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	
19.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Florence Rogerson (Birthday Rem)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	
11.30	Exposition	St Michael	
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Bridget Catherine Loftus
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Nativity of the BVM, Feast</b>	
09.00	Exposition	St John Fisher	
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Frances Fearon (Birthday Rem)
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>St Bede</b>	<b>Mary Attwood</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Joan & Terry Hayes (60 <sup>th</sup> Wed Ann)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	George Grace (Birthday Rem)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Roy & Susan Warburton (Golden Wed)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Patricia Mary King (Anniversary)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Frances Walsh (Lately Dead)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners