

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



**Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Year C)**

12th October 2025

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St Bede's Presbytery
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Parish Clergy:

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Psalm Response

'The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations'

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"Behold, I make all things new" - Revelation 21:5.

Friends, we need to communicate the Gospel with the joys, hopes, griefs and anxieties of our hearers in mind. We should not attempt to change the truth, rather, we should transmit it appropriately, indeed, as Vatican II declared, *"in language intelligible to each generation"* (Gaudium et Spes, 4). We know each generation is different. Likewise, we know we're stuck in the past in many ways. Ideas and initiatives which enabled people to encounter Christ in the 70's, 80's and 90's are failing in the 2020's.

"We need to get the youth in!" But perhaps the youth justifiably misunderstand/ ignore a Church which speaks to them in a different language? I think they want something which is *nova et vetera* (new and old). This has come across in my encounters with the 18-35 group. They're curious about the things they've never really experienced in the Church, but see on social media. Whether we like those things, is in my opinion, irrelevant. We need to meet them where they are at! Like so many things, one generation's trash is another generation's treasure. Bishop Erik Varden writes; *"what they [young people] long for is to awaken the dawn, to know the saving power of Christ, the same today, yesterday, and always, yet making all things new."*

Being a welcoming parish is not about handing hymn books out or singing *"all are welcome"*, it is primarily about being open to the other and opening the Gospel to the other in an accessible manner. Let us meet our friends where they are at and then journey together to somewhere new.

Father Peter

Update from the Archdiocesan Trustees

The Trustees met last week and after considering the points made in our consultation have agreed to a further 12 months before a final decision has to be made concerning St Michael's Church, (and the implications of whatever decision is made). The Archbishop commended the Parish of St. Wilfrid for the depth and honesty conveyed in the consultation report he received, which enabled him to hear the voice of the parish community.

On Monday evening, (29/09/25), the Vision Group met with Mgr. Philip Inch to consider the consequences of the 12 month deadline.

During this time, the church of St Michael will remain open, subject to conditions (see below). Meanwhile, parishioners are invited to work on the following:

Being aware of the mission of the Catholic Church in the Widnes and the Cronton Family of Parishes what buildings are essential/needed?	Explore the possibilities for grants, donations, legacies, civic involvement, and the use/release of assets in the Family of Parishes.
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The Vision Group will meet this coming Tuesday (7/10/25) to plan for the roll-out of the next stage of the process. In light of the experience of last winter, the Vision Group have decided that the church will be open for the 10:15 Sunday Mass, weekday Mass in the sacristy, and other essential liturgies. All other liturgies, including funerals, will not ordinarily take place in the church during the winter months. Temporary heating will be re-introduced.

Thank you to all who gave of their time and participation thus far. We ask for your continued support, prayer and involvement as we journey forward together.

The Vision Group (*Peter McCann, Fr. Mark Moran, Denise Roberts, Pauline Rolt, Dcn. Paul Rooney, Fr. Peter F Ross and Susan Warburton*).

Called to Serve

Thank you to those who expressed an interest in being formed as new Eucharistic Ministers (aka Extraordinary Ministers of Communion). It's fantastic that there was enough interest shown for us to organise a formation session. Thank you! This will be held in the Guild Hall **10.30am until 12.30 on Saturday 18th October 2025**. Please let the Parish Office know if you can attend this event for catering and organisational purposes. As an Extraordinary Minister, you are called to serve the community by assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion. There is still time to step forward and join this formation session. Just drop your name and contact details into the Parish Office.

Dcn. Paul

SVP

The meeting for the SVP prospective members will be held on **Thursday 16th October at 7pm** in the **Guild Hall**. Doors open at 6.30pm. Thank you for your interest in the SVP.

Parish Choir

If you have not sung before, or not sung for years, or have not been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally, it doesn't matter, you will be most welcome. Due to safeguarding guidance all members of the choir must be over 18. Our next practice is this **Tuesday 14th October at 7pm** in **St. John Fisher Church**, followed by **Monday 3rd November**.

Trinity Safe Space – Announcement

“The Trustees of Trinity Safe Space charity would like to thank you very much for the generous donations you have given us in the past and continue to do so. They are very much appreciated.

It is with great sadness that we are notifying you all that we are moving our Widnes drop-in and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes urgently from their present location in St Michael’s Catholic presbytery because of some complaints which have been made by parents of children at St Michael’s Catholic School and a couple of emails from local residents saying, among other things, they do not feel safe walking past groups of our service users, gathering in the lane waiting to come into the presbytery - the service users are mainly men. They also fear for the safety of their children.

After considering this and being very mindful of the national and local community tensions, we Trustees have decided to be pragmatic in terms of everyone’s safety. So, we are relocating to two other venues in Widnes and will change the nature of the drop-in somewhat. At our drop-ins we give people items which they need, information and advice, and help them access other services such as GPs, Move-On when they have leave to remain, and advocate on their behalf. We also show them care and compassion, treating them with kindness.

We wonder if you can spare a thought and a prayer for the people we support and for the whole situation in which we operate - pray for our volunteers and partners; our vulnerable service users, most of whom have had horrific lived experience such as torture and significant abuse; our relocation; the communities in which we all live, and pray for safety for all - parents who are fearful for their children and teachers who are entrusted with their safety in these complex and difficult times. Thank you.

Pope Francis urged us to support the marginalised and Pope Leo, last Sunday, said that immigrants should not be treated with the coldness of indifference or the stigma of discrimination. The Trustees of Trinity Safe Space charity, supporting people seeking asylum, refugees and vulnerable migrants”

The Trustees of Trinity Safe Space

October Talks – Gospel of St. Matthew

We continue our exploration of St. Matthew’s Gospel on **Wednesday 22nd October at 7pm** at the Parish Hall at **St John Fisher Hall**. Refreshments will be served from 6.40pm. For this talk we welcome Fr Mark Beattie. Fr. Mark is Parish Priest of St. Chad and St. Bede in Chorley and is well known for his talks on spirituality and faith in action. All are welcome to come along and learn more about Jesus!

Jubilee Club

The Jubilee Club meet every Thursday in St John Fisher Hall from **1.30pm to 3.30pm**. All are welcome to join us for a friendly chat with a light refreshment. **October 23rd**, we have our prize bingo. During November we have a quiz on **6th**, Music afternoon on **20th**, plus Flower arranging on the **27th**. Christmas activities during December. Please join us if you can, you will be made very welcome!

Widnes Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who supports us. If you can donate food, our current most needed items are, Tinned Spaghetti, Coffee, Pasta Sauce, Microwave Rice, Long Life Juice, Biscuits & Crisps. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	12th October	Twenty Eighth in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Kennedy
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Gerald Martin
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Maureen & Peter
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Hulstrom
Monday	13th October	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Eric Swift
Tuesday	14th October	Ferial	
11.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Rosary		
12noon	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St Bede	
Wednesday	15th October	Memorial of St Teresa of Jesus of Avila	
No Mass or Service			
Thursday	16th October	Ferial	
No Mass or Service			
Friday	17th October	Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch	
09.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Service of the word with Holy Communion	St John Fisher	
Saturday	18th October	Vigil of the Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	John Joseph O'Brien
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
Sunday	19th October	Twenty Ninth in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Eddie Tague
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Fr Bernard Wood
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Joan Moran
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	P. Murray

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Thanksgiving (ME)
St Basil:	Thanksgiving (AJ)
St John Fisher:	Pilgrims in Knock
St Michael:	Migrants and Refugees

Rest in Peace

William Hunt, Alfred John Rowland,
Peter Tennant, Erica Norma Shaw,
Bernie Glaze & Ann-Marie Bradshaw.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!