

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

15th February 2026

Parish Office:

St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 6EL

Parish Clergy:

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator) 0151 422 1772
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Psalm Response

'Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!'

Gospel Acclamation Verse

**'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the
secrets of the kingdom to little children.'**

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

Preparing for Lent & Ash Wednesday

As Ash Wednesday approaches, we are invited to pause and take an honest look at our hearts. Lent does not begin with grand resolutions but with a quiet truth spoken over us: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* These words are not meant to diminish us, but to free us—reminding us that our lives are fragile, precious, and entirely held by God.

Preparing for Lent means making room. Room for repentance, yes, but also for grace. It is a season that gently strips away our distractions and false securities so we can return to what matters most: our relationship with God and with one another. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are not ends in themselves; they are pathways that reorient our hearts toward love, humility, and trust.

Ash Wednesday marks a beginning, not a finish line. It invites us to start again—to acknowledge where we have fallen short and to believe, deeply, that God is still at work in us. The ashes we receive are a sign of both mortality and hope: we are finite yet endlessly loved.

As we prepare for Lent, may we ask not only *"What should I give up?"* but also *"What is God inviting me to grow into?"* May this season lead us to deeper compassion, quieter hearts, and a renewed joy in the promise of Easter that awaits us on the other side of the desert.

Fr. Mark, PP

Archbishop John Sherrington

Archbishop John has asked me to convey his thanks to you all for the warm welcome he received on the two occasions he stayed in our parish for the purpose of his Visitation. In his letters to Fr. Peter and me, he spoke of how encouraged he was by the many "green shoots" he saw within our community.

He highlighted our ministry to the sick and housebound, the 18–35 group, and the catechetical programme, noting in particular the challenges this presents across our many schools. He also commented positively on our support for *Trinity Safe Spaces* and encouraged us to continue to support this important work. He recognised the challenge of the many funerals we celebrate and observed that a busy parish, though a great blessing, can at times feel overwhelming.

He was glad to see that Fr. Peter and I work well together and are happy here at St Wilfrid's.

+ John greatly enjoyed his time with us, and we shall keep him in our prayers.

Fr. Mark, PP

Last Chance – Pastoral Development Strategy

There is one final opportunity to take part in the PDS by attending a discussion on **Ash Wednesday, 18th February**, following the **7:00pm Holy Mass at St Basil's**. The meeting will be facilitated by members of the Vision Group, and everyone's contributions will be included in our response to the Archdiocese, which must be submitted by 1st April. Please come along and be part of this important initiative.

Fr. Mark, PP

Parish Choir

Our next practices, preparing for the Easter Liturgies, will be on **Tuesday 24th February, Tuesday 3rd March, Tuesday 10th March, Tuesday 17th March** and **Monday 23rd March**, all at 7pm in **St. Bede's Church**.

If you have not sung before, or not sung for years, or haven't been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally, it doesn't matter, you would be most welcome.

Sadly though, at this time, all members of the choir must be over 18 due to safeguarding guidance.

Widnes Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who supported us during a very cold January. We are asking for your continued support in February to help those in our community who are in need. If you are able to donate food to us our current most needed items are below.

Corned Beef/Ham/Chicken, Litre Carton Juice, Tinned Spaghetti, Jam, Sponge Puddings, Crisps, Tinned Vegetables and Toiletries. Thank You.

Gift of Life for Zambia Trip to Oswaldtwistle Mill with a tour of Pendle Hill

We begin our season with an indoor favorite during this cold weather! In the Mill there is shopping galore, independent and high-street brands, a garden center, restaurants and more. Enjoy an afternoon coach tour of Pendle's beautiful villages with a local guide. Experience the sad tales of the women wrongly accused of witchcraft. The date is **Friday, 27th March** leaving St. Basil's at 9.30am. and returning at approximately 6.30pm. The cost is £24. To book please put your money in an envelope marked with your name and telephone number and pass it to Monica (424 8194) or Angela (424 8668).

World Day of Prayer

A Service for everyone at Farnworth Methodist Church Hall, Derby Road, WA8 9JX. **Friday 6TH March at 2pm**. All our welcome. Please Join us.

Invitation to Journey in Faith – Sacrament of Confirmation 2026

Together with Saints Peter and Paul Catholic High School, the Parish is inviting all baptised Catholic young people in Year 8 (and above) to join our 'Journey in Faith – Sacrament of Confirmation 2026' opportunity. In previous years, we have provided a 'Confirmation Programme'. This year, we are providing a more rounded introduction to Jesus Christ and his Church, leading to the Sacrament of Confirmation and beyond. The first part of the journey will focus on accompaniment, therefore allowing our young people to encounter God (through prayer, scripture and discussion) and will last for around six weeks. At the end of this phase of the journey, we will celebrate a Commitment Mass at Saint Basil's Church, during which, our young people will commit themselves to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation a few weeks later.

After the Commitment Mass, the second part of the journey will focus on Confirmation itself, preparing our young people to be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The journey promises to be an exciting and interesting opportunity for our young people. The sessions will not be too onerous or exhausting, but rather, a space for reflection, encounter and prayer. We are seeking to meet them where they are at and journey with them to somewhere new. Should your young person wish to be part of this journey, then please enroll, using the affixed **QR Code by Friday 27th February**. The journey timetable is below. **Should this invitation be accepted, it is important that your young person attends all sessions.** I am very grateful, to our excellent Catholic High School, Saints Peter and Paul, for their co-operation. We would not be able to deliver this opportunity without their enthusiasm and resources. Please pray for everyone involved in this journey.

Fr. Peter.

PART 1 - JOURNEY IN FAITH			
EVENT	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Session 1	03/03/2026	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 2	10/03/2026	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 3	17/03/2026	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Tour of the Church	24/03/2026	15:30-16:30	Saint Michael Church, WA8 8TF.
SCHOOL BREAK			
Session 5	14/04/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 6	21/04/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
PART 2 – SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION			
Commitment Mass	25/04/26	16:30 – 17:30	Saint Basil Church, WA8 4PE.
Session 7	28/04/26	15:00 – 15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 8	05/05/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 9	12/05/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 10	19/05/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
SCHOOL BREAK			
Session 11	02/06/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 12	09/06/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Conferral of Confirmation	18/06/26	19:00 – 21:00	Saint Michael Church, WA8 8TF.

SCAN TO REGISTER



Parish Liturgy

Sunday	15th February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Joan Moran
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Barbara Kinsella
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Joseph Glackin
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Glover
Monday	16th February	Week 6 in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Peter Woodhard
10.00	Funeral Service	St Bede	Geoffrey Jackson
Tuesday	17th February	Week 6 in Ordinary Time	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Marie Power
Wednesday	18th February	Ash Wednesday	
07.00	Holy Mass with Ashes	St John Fisher	Denise Brown
09.30	Holy Mass with Ashes	St Bede	George & Leah Sadler
12noon	Holy Mass with Ashes	St Michael	Joan Little
19.00	Holy Mass with Ashes	St. Basil	Ken & Jackie Bate & Family
Thursday	19th February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	
10.00	Funeral Service	St Bede	Hilda Bennett
Friday	20th February	Friday after Ash Wednesday	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Alison Bate & Family
12noon	Stations of the Cross	St Michael	Led by St. Wilfrid's Rosary Group
Saturday	21st February	Vigil of First Sunday of Lent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Christina Howell
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
Sunday	22nd February	First Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Anne Clarke
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	The Bonnon Family
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Elizabeth Syze & George Roberts
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Harry Palin

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede: Fr Tony Reynolds
St Basil: Mary Murphy (Gorman)
St John Fisher: Special Intention
St Michael: Joan & Arthur Wilcox

Rest in Peace

Veronica Davenport, Mary Hanratty,
 Margaret Fillingham, John Kinsella,
 Marie Lynch, Paul Finnigan.
 Michael Robinson, Luke Dharmapala

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!