

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



15th March 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

**There will be a second collection
this week for Nugent**

Parish Clergy: 0151 422 1772

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator)

Rev Fr Peter Ross

Rev Deacon Paul Rooney

E: stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk

W: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

Psalm Response

"The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want".

Gospel Acclamation Verse

**"I am the light of the world, says the LORD; whoever follows me will have
the light of life"**

Pacem in Terris

Many of you will remember Pope Saint John XXIII, who convened the Second Vatican Council. One of his finest gifts to the Church was his 1963 encyclical, *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth). In it, the saintly Pope made a plea for peace, directed to *"all people of goodwill"*, a plea in itself unique, as most encyclicals are directed only to Catholics. It was a response to the horrors of the 20th century and the more contemporaneous events of the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis. It is often described as Pope John's *"last will and testament"*, written just two months before his death, while suffering from cancer.

I commend this document to you all (available on the Vatican website). Among many things, the document endorses the dignity of every human being, created in the image and likeness of God, with free will. Because of this, every person has fundamental rights and fundamental duties. In other words, we all have the right to thrive and the duty to help others thrive. All human beings have a right to life. Pope John wrote that claiming one's rights while ignoring another person's, *"is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other."*

While the world is in so much disarray, may we all bear this simple but profound teaching in mind. Furthermore, Pope John began the document by declaring, *"Peace on Earth—which man throughout the ages has so longed for and sought after—can never be established, never guaranteed, except by the diligent observance of the divinely established order."* So let us also follow the Lord all the more closely, so that peace, which is God's gift to us, may come to reign.

Fr. Peter.

Chrism Mass – Wednesday 1 April 2026 at 7.30pm

If you would like to attend, please submit your name along with £10 per person to the Parish Office. A coach will depart from St Bede's Church at 6:30pm, take us to the Cathedral for the Mass, and bring everyone safely home afterwards. All are warmly invited to join us for this special celebration.

Altar Servers – you must let the Parish Office know if you wish to robe and serve at this Mass.

UCM Spring Bingo

You are welcome to come along to St John Fisher Hall on the afternoon of **Monday 16th March 2026** and enjoy some company, some tea, some chat, and most definitely Bingo! The event usually starts about 1.30 pm. Free entrance, but you still need your purses for bingo tickets, raffle tickets and tombola. Thank you.

Mary's Meals – Small Change Collection

There will be small collection boxes available at the back of all our churches for you to place your loose change in, as an easy way to support the wonderful charity 'Mary's Meals'. This charity provides meals for children in schools in the developing world. Please pop your loose change in the box and they will be collected after Easter.

Nina Wylie and Elaine Davies (Mary's Meals Co-ordinators)

Continuing along the Path of Synodality

Pope Leo has invited us to continue to embrace the journey of synodality recognising that *'our relationships do not respond to the logic of power but to that of love.'* As we journey through Eastertime towards the great feast of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we have an opportunity to reflect on the document that came from the final session of the Synod on Synodality called by Pope Francis that Pope Leo is now urging us to embrace at every level in the life of the Church.

Tuesday evenings 7pm to 8.30pm - 21, 28 April, 5, 12, 19 May

To join the zoom meeting use the weblink below, enter the meeting details or use the QR code:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89983555285?pwd=VBTox3xbJiWrU8x00sbiuCGmnO97Xn.1>

Meeting ID: 899 8355 5285 Passcode: 981267

Two Cathedrals March

On **Sunday 24th May 2026 at 3pm** there will be the Annual March between our two Cathedrals in Liverpool. If you would like to walk with our Archbishop and other people of faith on the Feast of Pentecost, please assemble at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King and walk in faith!

First Reconciliations

This week the children who are enrolled onto the Sacramental Programme will celebrate their First Reconciliation. This is a wonderful time for the children to experience the love and mercy of God in a new way. We hold them in our prayers!

Grand Easter Raffle & Date for your Diary

Once again, we will be holding our Easter Raffle. As always, the prizes are wonderful and plentiful, and we are very grateful to everyone who donates. Raffle tickets are available at the back of all the churches and in the Parish Office, so please take a few books and help by selling as many as you can. All proceeds will go towards parish funds.

The raffle will be drawn at the **Easter Dance** on **Friday 17th April** at St Basil's Parish Centre. Tickets for the dance will be on sale on Palm Sunday weekend, so please make a note in your diary and join us for what promises to be a wonderful night together.

Marriage Preparation

We keep in our prayers all the couples who will be married in our parish in the next 12 months as they embark on their Marriage Preparation with Dcn. Paul and his wife Jane. The day is on **Saturday 21st March** beginning at 10am in the Guild Hall.

Congratulations to St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School!

St Gerard's was recently inspected by Ofsted under the new 2025 framework and has been recognised for its strong standards. Pupils achieve above national averages in reading, writing, and mathematics, including those who are disadvantaged or have special educational needs.

The report praised the school's ambitious curriculum, effective teaching, and the calm, nurturing environment where pupils show respect and good self-discipline. The school's commitment to inclusion was also highlighted, ensuring every child is supported to thrive academically and socially. We warmly congratulate the whole school community on this excellent achievement.

Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross on **Monday 16th March at 7pm** at St. Basil's Church. The Stations will be led by our 18-35 group and will use the unique stations that are in St. Basil's Church – please come along and walk with Jesus.

CAFOD – Soup and Sharing Evening

Our Annual Soup and Sharing Evening will take place on **Tuesday 24th March at 7:00pm** in the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher. This is always a wonderfully joyful evening and a special opportunity for us to come together as a community to pray, share a meal, and raise funds for CAFOD. If you have never been before, please consider coming along — you will really enjoy it, I promise! If you would like to attend, please leave your name and telephone number at the Parish Office, or call the office to add your name to the list. All are very warmly welcome.

Fr. Mark

Solemnity of St. Joseph – Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 18th March – Solemn Evening Prayer

We will gather at St John Fisher Church at 7:00pm on the eve of the solemnity to sing Evening Prayer together.

Thursday 19th March – Solemn Mass of St Joseph

We will gather again at St John Fisher Church at 7:00pm to celebrate Holy Mass on this wonderful feast day. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Parish Hall. All are warmly welcome.

Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi 2026 Meeting

There will be a meeting for all those interested in coming on pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi on **Wednesday 18th March at 7.30pm**, straight after the Evening Prayer on the eve of the Feast of St. Joseph, at St. John Fisher Church. The dates of the pilgrimage are Monday 12th October till Sunday 18th October 2026. We shall have booking forms for you to take home and return by the end of March. Come and find out more!

Fr. Mark and Susan Warburton

Easter Lillies

Would you like to buy a lily for Easter? Lillies are often bought in memory of a loved one and their names will be displayed in each of our Churches for the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday. Envelopes containing forms will be at the back of all churches, please complete and return them to the Parish Office before Friday 27th March. There is a cost of £5 for each lily.

Parish Choir

Our next practices, preparing for the Easter Liturgies, will be on, **Tuesday 17th March** and **Monday 23rd March**, all at **7pm** in **St. Bede's Church**. All welcome. However, Sadly though, at this time, all members of the choir must be over 18 due to safeguarding guidance.

Community Police Drop-In – Friday 20th March

Residents and parishioners are advised that on **Friday 20th March, between 10:00am and 11:30am**, police officers will be present outside St. Michael's Church. This will be an opportunity for anyone in the community to speak with an officer in confidence about any concerns or issues they may be able to assist with.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	15th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Bernie Glaze
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Pauline Noone
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Joyce Connolly
Monday	16th March	Week 4 of Lent	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Douglas Smith
19.00	Stations of the Cross	St Basil	
Tuesday	17th March	Feast of St Patrick	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Monica Davidson & Family
<i>(Please note change in time)</i>			
Wednesday	18th March	Week 4 of Lent	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Anne Conroy
<i>(Please note change in time)</i>			
19.00	Solemn Evening Prayer in honour of St. Joseph	St. John Fisher	
Thursday	19th March	Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM	
10.00	Funeral Service	St Bede	Catherine (Kitty) Rowlands
19.00	Solemn Mass for Solemnity of St. Joseph	St. John Fisher	Marese Hudson Peter Golson (Snr.)
Friday	20th March	Week 4 of Lent	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Norman Hignett
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Elizabeth Stonehouse
12.00	Stations of the Cross	St Michael	
13.00	Stations of the Cross	St Basil	
Saturday	21st March	Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Lent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Thomas Mahon
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	John Paget
Sunday	22nd March	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mary O'Brien
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Michelle Spencer (Adams)
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Rimmer
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede:	Special Intention
St Basil:	Elizabeth Farley
St John Fisher:	In thanksgiving
St Michael:	Elizabeth Geraghty

Rest in Peace

Mark Turk, John Percival,
Doreen Taylor, Joan O'Brien & Linda Dunne

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

