



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year A)

17th May 2026

Second Collection: World Communications.

Parish Clergy: 0151 422 1772

Rev. Father Mark Moran (Parish Priest, Moderator).

Rev. Father Peter F. Ross (Parochial Vicar).

Rev. Deacon Paul Rooney.

Rev. Deacon Paul Whitehead.

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Psalm Response

"I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness in the land of the living"

Gospel Acclamation Verse

"I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.

I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice".

Lourdes... and that was just the start!

Over many years of dealing with families in preparation for funerals, I have heard of many couples meeting in the dance halls around Liverpool. In last week's Newsletter, it was mentioned that Jan liked line-dancing, however, Jan and I did not meet through dancing!

We did meet through, being part of a pilgrimage party going to Lourdes by Jumbulance - Jan as a nurse and me as a 'helper.' The following year we became engaged, on 11th February, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, it seemed an entirely appropriate date when we spoke about becoming engaged!

We married later that year. Since then, we have had 2 children, a daughter Ailene and a son Joseph, now adults of course.

We have been part of nearly 20 Lourdes pilgrimage groups together, and for the last 10 years have led and I have been chaplain for parish groups. These pilgrimages have always been a most enriching experience for us. Some deep and abiding friendships among the pilgrims have also been made, and these are some of the real blessings of a pilgrimage.

Deacon Paul Whitehead

[Enrol a Loved One in St. Wilfrid's Mass Association](#)

Our beautiful Mass Association cards are a meaningful way to remember a deceased loved one or celebrate a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary. For a £10 offering, the person enrolled will be included in a monthly Mass for one full year. To participate, simply fill out the enrolment slip found at the back of our churches and return it in the provided envelope to the Parish Office or a member of the clergy team. The Mass Association Cards are also available from the Parish Office during office hours.

[18-35 Group](#)

We meet next on **Sunday, 31st May, from 18:00 till late at St. Basil** to celebrate Trinity Sunday with a Mass in English and Latin. The priest offering the Mass will be Canon Sean Riley from the Archdiocese. Afterwards, we will try our hand at '**Basil's Bingo**' (Prize Bingo) with some frankly fabulous and some absolutely awful prizes up for grabs. I'm also pleased to announce the date of our next pilgrimage day. On **August 8th**, we will journey to Arrowsmith House in Gregson Lane, to celebrate Mass in the room where St. Edmund Arrowsmith celebrated his last Mass before capture and execution, and to take part in a day on liturgy led by Maria Hall, a qualified liturgist and church musician. The day will conclude with a tour of St. Mary's Church in Leyland, a church considered to be exceptional in terms of modern design, by Fr. Joe Bibby (former Parish Priest of St. Wilfrid). It promises to be an excellent day! Please continue to pray for this group.

[One Year of Grace: Praying for Pope Leo XIV and His Path to Peace](#)

On May 8, 2025, the Catholic Church entered a historic chapter with the election of Pope Leo XIV. Stepping onto the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the former Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost greeted a fractured world with a profound roadmap for his ministry: "*May peace be with you all.*" Marking exactly one year of his pontificate, we reflect on his steady, pastoral leadership and our profound duty to sustain him in prayer.

In just twelve months, the Holy Father has made more than 400 passionate appeals for peace amidst global conflict and political polarisation. He has continually challenged world leaders to seek a reconciliation that is both "*unarmed and disarming*" – reminding us that peace is not merely a political ceasefire, but a transformational spiritual reality born directly within human hearts. From his firm defence of refugees to his regular prayers for children and vulnerable families caught in the crossfires of war, his voice has become a crucial moral compass.

"Peace is born within the heart. We cannot resign ourselves to the images of death that the news presents to us every day." **Pope Leo XIV**

Long live the Pope! Let us remain united hand-in-hand with our pontiff, keeping our hearts firmly set on the Gospel path of mercy, reconciliation, and lasting peace.

[Jubilee Club](#)

This coming **Thursday, 21st May**, we shall be entertained by the Knights Choir, all are welcome to come along from 1.30pm – 3.30pm. Also, we are planning a coach trip to Oswaldtwistle Mills on **Thursday 11th June**, cost, £15.00. If anyone is interested in joining us on the day, please ring Lynn 07990 621767 or you can visit us in St John Fisher Hall on a Thursday from 1.30 till 15.30. Thank You.

[Parish Choir](#)

Next practice: **Monday 18th May, 7pm at St. Bede's Church**. All are welcome to attend! Due to safeguarding advice no unaccompanied under 18's may attend. Future rehearsals are **Tuesday 23rd June** and **Tuesday 21st July**

Knights of St. Columba – Installation of New Member

On **Saturday 23rd May** at the 6pm Mass at St. John Fisher, a new member of the Knights of St. Columba will be officially welcomed into the brotherhood. The Knights of St. Columba (KSC) is the largest Catholic fraternal service order for men in Great Britain. Founded in Glasgow in 1919, the organization is dedicated to supporting the mission of the Catholic Church and its clergy through practical service and charitable works.

Who They Are

- **Membership:** It is open to all practicing Catholic men aged 16 and over.
- **Structure:** The Order is led by a Supreme Knight (currently Michael Akinrele) and is organized into approximately 200 local councils across England, Scotland, and Wales.
- **Patron:** Named after St. Columba, a 6th-century Irish missionary who evangelised Scotland and founded Iona_Abbey.
- **Core Principles:** The organization is built on the virtues of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

What They Do

The Knights focus on "Serving God by serving others" through various spiritual and social activities.

- **Charitable Fundraising:** They raise significant funds for national and local causes.
- **Parish Support:** Members often serve as stewards, assist in parish functions, and provide maintenance or labour for church buildings.
- **Youth Development:** They run national youth competitions and initiatives to help young people grow in their faith.
- **Spiritual Life:** The Order promotes the spiritual development of its members through group prayer, retreats, and pilgrimages.

If you would like to know more about the Widnes branch of the KSC, please contact John Hamilton on 0151 424 7201.

Ecumenical News

It was a joy to once again welcome Rev. Michelle Goodwin to St. Wilfrid's for First Vespers of the Ascension last Wednesday, we thank her for reading during the service. It is always a cause for joy when Christians gather! St. Wilfrid's parishioners have also been invited to **Choral Evensong at St. Mary's Church, Hale Village, L24 4AY on 31st May at 18:30** to mark Trinity Sunday. Members of the Clergy Team will be participating in the service alongside Rev. Michelle. *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."* (John 17:21).

Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership

New Training Opportunity: Cultural Competence

HSCP is delighted to welcome Pauline Ruth (Trinity Safe Space Charity) to lead our new Cultural Competence sessions.

Where: Runcorn Town Hall **When:** 09:30 – 12:00 **Dates:** 8 June | 15 July | 12 Oct | 20 Jan '27

Limited Spaces: We also have final spots available for our **Misogyny** training on 10 June, 10 Sept, 25 Nov, and March '27. **Book your place now on the HSCP website!**

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	17th May	Seventh Sunday of Easter	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Michael Richards
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Terrance Dickens
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Kilgallon
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Prakash Pawar
Monday	18th May	Monday Week 7 of Easter	
09.30	Service of the Word With Holy Communion	St Basil	
Tuesday	19th May	Tuesday Week 7 of Easter	
12noon	Service of the Word With Holy Communion	St Bede	
Wednesday	20th May	Wednesday Week 7 of Easter	
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Michael Richards
Thursday	21st May	Thursday Week 7 of Easter	
12noon	Service of the Word With Holy Communion	St Michael	
Friday	22nd May	Friday Week 7 of Easter	
09.30	Holy Mass Year 5 & 6 School	St John Fisher (All are welcome to attend)	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Brian Colquitt
Saturday	23rd May	Vigil of Pentecost	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Joe Houghton
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
Sunday	24th May	Solemnity of Pentecost	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Celia McMullen
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Percival
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	SVP
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ruth Bibby

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede:	Michael Richards
St Basil:	Jesus' Shoulder Pain
St John Fisher:	Special Intention
St Michael:	Dorothy Jones

Rest in Peace

Anastasia Deus, Frank Ames, James Ware,
Patrick Riley, James "Brian" Glover,
Mary Kerr & Lorna O'Gara.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

