



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times (Year A)

19th July 2026

Parish Office:

Monday to Friday: 9:30-16:30
(unless stated in newsletter)

Second Collection: Priests in Retirement

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

"O LORD, you are good and forgiving".

Gospel Acclamation Verse

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

The good thing is not always the right thing

As Christians, we should aim to do the right thing in every situation. As a priest, I am often asked to do good things. Nevertheless, as one of two priests, serving the Lord in the largest parish in the Archdiocese, I often have to say no to many good things in order to do the right thing. I have to make that discernment. It's really challenging!

Here are a few examples. Firstly, let's consider our schools. Our parish boasts seven primary schools and a secondary school. No other diocesan parish comes close in this regard. In most parishes, the priest would, ordinarily, visit his single parish school at least once per week. In this parish the relationship between priests and schools has to be more occasional. As parishes across the diocese soon move to models similar to ours, this will become the case everywhere. So, it's good for the priest to visit a school, but given limited resources and time, it's not always right for Fr. Peter to visit a school in Widnes. Equally, let's consider our many nursing homes. When I arrived in Widnes, I quickly committed to celebrating a Mass every week in one of the nursing homes. I did this for a few months. Saying Mass in a nursing home is a good thing to do! Nevertheless, I quickly realised that I did not have the resources to commit to that weekly Mass. It was a good thing for a priest to do, but not the right thing for Fr. Peter, the priest in Widnes, to do. One of the great blessings of my ministry here is the Young Adults Group. We generally meet once per month, but I would love to meet every week. That would be a good thing, yeah? It's not the right thing though. I have to avoid overcommitting myself.

A wise old priest once told me, *"always have a slot in your diary, each day, entitled 'marzipan making' and honour it!"*. What he simply meant was, 'make sure you get a break!' A priest's self-care is in service of his self-giving. Rev. Mark Harwood, the Methodist Minister, aptly quoted John Wesley at Rev. Michelle's licensing service on Tuesday. I end with that quote now: *"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."*

Fr Peter

Warrington and Widnes Deanery - Parish Development Strategy

The Parish Development Strategy, launched in our Deanery last January, is a response to the change we are experiencing with smaller congregations, fewer priests and reduced income.

The audits carried out in each parish earlier this year highlighted the need to reduce the number of churches we have in **Warrington**. In short, we simply don't have enough money to maintain eight churches and associated buildings! However, this is not just about money. It's also about proactively managing the mission entrusted to us, not least for those who will come after us. So, we have to plan for the future.

In the spirit of synodality, the Steering Committees of each Family of Parishes have been asked to discern possible plans for moving forward. Once there is some kind of consensus, a potential plan will be shared with parishioners for further discernment - probably in the Autumn.

At present, there is nothing set in stone and no decisions have been made. We're very much in the first part of the discernment process - trying to work out a potential plan that we can present to parishioners.

I understand that there is some guesswork going on, but that's all it is. We have a strategy to follow, which was shared with parishioners earlier in the year, and is there to help us on this journey.

Please pray for the Steering Committees as they try to discern what our Lord may be asking of us.

*Fr Dave Heywood,
Dean of Warrington & Widnes,
14 July 2026*

Pray for our Parish

So much work has been done in the past 12 months as we heeded the call of the Archbishop and the Trustees of the Archdiocese to look at our parish as whole and discern what we need as we look to the future mission of the Catholic Church in Widnes. Copies of the paper presented to the Archbishop and the Trustees were made available at the back of church a few months ago for you to read. We ask you now to **pray**, to **pray** for the right outcome for our church here in Widnes. As followers of Jesus, as members of His Body, the Church, we place all our hope and trust in Him.

Parish Vision Group

Mass Times – Summer Schedule

Commencing **1st/2nd August till 29th/30th August** weekend Masses will be as follows in the Parish of St. Wilfrid.

Saturday Vigil Mass

4.30pm – St. Basil

Sunday

9am – St. Bede

10.15am – St. Michael

4pm – St. John Fisher

Please note that this is just for **one month** and then the timetable will go back to normal until St. Bede's Church is out of action for the restoration. The Vision Group are endeavoring to plan for this, so that all the parish is served during this time.

Parish Vision Group

Annual Lourdes Mass 2026

The Annual Lourdes Mass is a beautiful, uplifting celebration that unites the community in faith and prayer. Whether you are traveling on the upcoming pilgrimage or joining from home, your presence is welcome. The Mass takes place on **Sunday 19th July at 3pm** at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool and the principal celebrant is Archbishop John Sherrington. At this Mass you will be able to offer your petitions to Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette and pray with those who are travelling to Lourdes.

Our Lady of Lourdes – pray for us! - St. Bernadette – pray for us!

Lourdes at Home!

Our day in Lourdes is upon us! This coming **Wednesday, 22nd July**, at St. John Fisher Church we will recreate a day in Lourdes, mirroring what will happen with those who are taking part in the Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage in the south of France. All are welcome to attend!

7am – Mass of St. Bernadette

In the quiet of the morning, we shall ponder the beauty of the Mass with St. Bernadette. We shall offer our entire day to Jesus that we may draw closer to Him.

12noon – Service of Anointing

We all need to feel the healing touch of Jesus; at this time, we shall hear the words from the Sacrament of the Sick.

On the Forehead: *"Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen."*

On the Hands: *"May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up. Amen."*

7pm – Rosary and Torchlight Procession

In prayer we shall contemplate the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary and imitate St. Bernadette, who prayed the rosary in the presence of Our Blessed Mother. During the rosary we shall light our candles and process in song to Our Lady's Grotto and offer our petitions once more.

Our Lady of Lourdes – Pray for us! St. Bernadette – pray for us!

Red Box Appeal

Next weekend we will welcome Fr Joseph and Fr Noah to give a Red Box Appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for world Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the world where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit.

Music in August

The generous people who make music each Saturday evening and Sunday morning, deserve a break too! So, during August there will be limited music at all the weekend Masses, the priest will lead the Mass parts etc. but Masses will have no formal singing, I am letting you know in case you think our choirs and musicians have gone on strike!

Young Catholics in Widnes

Around 20 of us gathered at St. Basil's last Sunday for an evening with the relics of St. Wilfrid's, led by Peter McCann. I am very grateful to him for his excellent input. The next event is our pilgrimage day to Arrowsmith House and Leyland on **August 8th!** I've already got about 25 signed up, but if you still want to come, then do get in touch. Extra transport can be arranged. Find us on Instagram: [young_catholics_in_widnes](#).

Fr. Peter

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	19th July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Parishioners
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael Fr. Peter McGiveron
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede Hildegarde Murphy
15.00	Lourdes Mass	Cathedral Sick and Housebound
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Les Dean
Monday	20th July	Monday Week 16 in Ordinary Time
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer	
09.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil Billy Scott
Tuesday	21st July	Tuesday Week 16 in Ordinary Time
11.30	Exposition & Rosary	
12noon	Holy Mass	St. Bede Fiona Kearns
Wednesday	22nd July	Feast of St Mary Magdalene
	<u>Lourdes At Home Day</u>	
07.00	Mass of St. Bernadette	St. John Fisher Margaret Barber
12noon	Service of Anointing	St. John Fisher
19.00	Rosary and Torchlight	St. John Fisher
Thursday	23rd July	Feast of St Bridget
12noon	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St. Michael
Friday	24th July	Friday Week 16 in Ordinary Time
12noon	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St. John Fisher
Saturday	25th July	Vigil of Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Times
16.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil Bob Wardrop
18.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher Mary & Joseph Hyland
Sunday	26th July	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Times
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Michael Richards
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael Parishioners
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede Private Intention
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Ann Barrow

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St. Bede:	Special Intention
St. Basil:	Jane Fenlon
St. John Fisher:	Fr Mark
St. Michael:	Pilgrims going to Lourdes

Rest in Peace

Robert Taylor, Robert O'Shaughnessy
& Juilia Gibbs

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!