

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

1<sup>st</sup> 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  
Rev Fr Peter Ross 0151 422 1772  
Rev Deacon Paul Rooney 0151 422 1772

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### Psalm Response

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"**

### Alleluia Verse

**"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven"**

### Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

### Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

## Catholic Education in Widnes

Last Wednesday afternoon, the headteachers from our seven Catholic primary schools and the headteacher of SS Peter and Paul Catholic High School met with Fr Peter, Joan McCarthy, Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese, and myself. Together, we reflected on how we serve the children and young people in our schools, and how we support their transition from primary to secondary education within the Catholic Partnership in the Parish of St Wilfrid. It was a truly blessed time, spent with people deeply committed to Catholic education, to the wellbeing of all within their communities, and to ensuring that every pupil is given the opportunity to excel.

Catholic education plays an important role in our schools by forming not only knowledgeable students, but compassionate and principled individuals. Rooted in faith, it integrates academic excellence with moral and spiritual formation, helping students see learning as a way to serve God and others. Catholic schools emphasize values such as respect, justice, responsibility, and love, guiding young people to make ethical choices in a complex world. By nurturing both the mind and the soul, Catholic education prepares students to contribute meaningfully to society while remaining grounded in faith, community, and a sense of purpose.

Our schools do this wonderfully well, and to see the children flourish at SS Peter and Paul Catholic High School, building on the excellent work of our primary schools, gives us all a deep sense of achievement. We stand in awe of our children and young people. Please remember to pray for our schools and for all who serve the children and young people of our parish.

**Fr. Mark, PP**

## Meetings – Prayers!

This week, the Parish Vision Group meet on Tuesday evening and the Exploration Group meet on Wednesday evening. These groups serve our whole community in exploring and visioning who and what we are, and, what we shall need in the future, plus they all show a great commitment to dialogue and transparency. I would like to thank those people who give so much of their time and expertise to these gatherings, yet we all have a responsibility to remember in our prayers the work that is being done for the good of all.

## Parishioners Voices Matter! - Pastoral Development Strategy

The Pastoral Development Strategy has been launched in the Deanery of Widnes and Warrington. The first task that we have is to engage in, is to gather information for the parish audit, to get an authentic picture of our parish community.

Yet the real task for us as the working group, is to **listen** to the people of our parish. We are offering different ways of doing this.

**Questionnaire** – These are available at the **back of all churches** for you to take home **this weekend**, think and discuss the questions we have been tasked with answering and then return them to church **next weekend**.

**Open Meetings** – These are listed below and all are encouraged to participate so that your voice can be heard.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February** - After the 12 noon Mass in the Guild Hall there will be an open meeting.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February** - At 7.30pm in St. Basil's Church, after you have received ashes, there will be another opportunity to gather.

**18-35 Group** – Fr. Peter will engage in a discussion with this group so that their voices can be heard.

**R.C. Primary and Secondary Schools in Widnes** – Fr. Mark will engage with our schools so that they can be part of the discussions.

We also encourage you to have discussions at home, with your friends from the parish, in your parish group meetings, as the broader the conversations are, the better response we can make to the Archdiocese. Thank you, in anticipation of your support.

**Pastoral Development Strategy Working Group** – Fr. Mark, Peter McCann, Pauline Rolt, Denise Roberts, Susan Warburton, Fr. Peter and Dcn. Paul.

## Pastoral Statistics 2025 – St. Wilfrid, Widnes

These are the statistics that we must return to the Archdiocesan Curial Offices which are in turn are collated and passed to the offices in Rome.

Number of Catechumens and Candidates for Reception Easter 2026 – **14**

Baptisms during 2025 -**127**

Receptions into the Church – **5**

First Holy Communions – **149**

Confirmations – **29**

Marriages – **9**

Requiems and Funeral Services – **114**

Average Mass Attendance – **805**

Number of people receiving Holy Communion at home – **60**

Number of Catechists – **38**

Members of Catholic Associations - **34**

## Welcome Archbishop John

This weekend we welcome Archbishop John Sherrington to St. Bede's Church in our Parish of St. Wilfrid as he continues his Visitation of our parish. Once again, you are very welcome + John and we are blessed by your presence amongst us!

## Congratulations - Aiming High – Halton Education Awards

Congratulations to Mr. Matthew Lorne from Saints Peter and Paul Catholic High School who was named **Inspirational Teacher of the Year** and St Gerard's Catholic Primary Year 6 pupil, Charlotte Coffey, who was awarded **Inspirational Young Person of the Year** at the 2026 Aiming High Halton Education Awards.

These awards highlight the talent, dedication, and quality that exists across Catholic primary and secondary education in Halton, as well as the commitment of local families. Being recognised as inspirational, shows how our shared Catholic values drive excellence and high attainment, while ensuring that young people are supported to thrive and achieve their full potential, both academically and personally, at every stage of their journey.

Other awards given to students from St. Peter and Paul Catholic High School; congratulations go to students Ethan Wang, shortlisted for **Incredible Student Achievement**, and Benji Hidayat, shortlisted for **Sports and Culture Student of the Year**, and to our Expressive Arts Team, shortlisted for **Team of the Year**. These nominations speak volumes about the breadth of talent within our student body and the dedication of staff who nurture that talent day in, day out.

## St Wilfrid Lourdes 2026 Parish Pilgrimage

We are planning to journey to Lourdes as a parish again this year in conjunction with the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage. The dates this year are **Wednesday 22nd July until Thursday 30th July 2026**. We will be staying in the Hotel Roissy, and the cost is £1155 for an 8-night stay based on 2 people sharing, with a single room supplement to be added as appropriate.

Several people intend to journey again this year, and it is open to anyone who would like to come - **you are very welcome**. If you would like to find out more about the pilgrimage or put your name down to travel with the parish, please pass your name and contact details into the parish office and once we have an idea of people who are interested, we will arrange a meeting with the booking forms and get deposits paid and sent off.

**Denise Roberts and Dcn. Paul**

## Universal Prayer Team - Help!

The Universal Prayer, (Bidding Prayers) at Sunday Mass are prepared by parishioners who take turns to compose them. They do a splendid job, and our Masses are enriched by their efforts! Nevertheless, we desperately need new people to take up this important ministry. If you sign up, you will be given ongoing formation and accompaniment for this ministry. Your turn on the rota would come around every few weeks. You can work individually, in pairs or in small groups. It's up to you. If you think this ministry is for you, then please email the parish office, expressing your interest. Thank you.

**Fr. Peter**

## Bereavement Mass

There will be a Mass for the Bereaved on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 10am** at St. Basil's Church. All who have experienced bereavement in the last couple of months have been invited personally to this Mass that they may experience the healing of Jesus at this difficult time. Please come along to pray with those in our community, who may feel overwhelmed by grief, showing love and support by our presence.

# Parish Liturgy

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mass Association Members Nancy Prendergast
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Brian Cordy
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners Peter Hill
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Diane Ferris & John Turner
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</b>	
<b>12noon</b>	<b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>St Michael</b>	<b>James Norman Hignett</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>Week 4 in Ordinary Time</b>	
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>St Bede</b>	<b>Joseph Alan Smith</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Week 4 in Ordinary Time</b>	
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>St Basil</b>	<b>Joyce Connolly</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Memorial of St Agatha</b>	
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>St Bede</b>	<b>John Joseph Council</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Memorial of St Paul Miki and Companions</b>	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Mr. & Mrs. Pye
10.45	Holy Mass	St. Bede Y2 Mass	Archbishop John
<i>(This is a simple Mass for our infant children in Year 2)</i>			
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Vigil of Firth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
10.00	Bereavement Mass and Confessions	St. Basil	The forgotten souls in Purgatory
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Margaret Palin
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Irene Gwynn & Margaret Platt
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Anthony Larson
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Mary Rimmer
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	John and Ann Case
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners

## Sanctuary Lamp

*The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.*

<b>St Bede:</b>	Prayers Answered
<b>St Basil:</b>	The Murphy Family
<b>St John Fisher:</b>	Special Intention
<b>St Michael:</b>	Thomas Higginson

## Rest in Peace

William Moran, Jean Ashworth-Stott,  
Ann Jones, Veronica Davenport, Marie Power,  
Hilda Bennett, Mary Hanratty &  
Margaret Fillingham.

**May the Angels lead them into Paradise!**