



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

**Second Collection This Week is for:
Day for life**

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.

21st June 2026

Parish Office:

St Bede's Presbytery

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Psalm Response

In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Verse

The Spirit of truth will bear witness about me, says the Lord, and you also will bear witness.

Long days and light evenings

Are you enjoying these long days with light evenings? In our Catholic tradition, the month of June is formally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The blazing heat (we have had some!) and long hours of sunlight are viewed as a physical reminder of Christ's Sacred Heart, which is believed to burn with an unending, all-consuming love and mercy for humanity.

As I write this article we are approaching the longest day of the year on Sunday 21st June, the Summer Solstice. As Catholics we view the Summer Solstice through the lens of divine light and the liturgical calendar. It is traditionally connected to the Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, celebrated on the 24th June. This date establishes a beautiful spiritual symbolism tied into the changing seasons.

The Church historically recognized ancient, earth-centered midsummer celebrations and 'baptized' them into the faith. For centuries, Catholics celebrated 'St. John's Eve' on the 23rd June by lighting bonfires, a practice representing John the Baptist as a "burning and shining lamp" (John 5:35) who bore witness to Christ.

By calling John the Baptist a burning lamp, Jesus acknowledged the profound and passionate way John illuminated the truth and prepared the way for the Messiah.

How will you be a 'burning lamp' this week in your actions and prayers?

Deacon Paul Rooney

Journey in Faith – Sacrament of Confirmation Experience 2026

Congratulations to our young people who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday at St. Michael's Church. Their commitment to discipleship at this young age is impressive and inspirational. Please pray for them as they continue their faith journey, now as fully initiated members of the Body of Christ. I am very grateful to Jim Wilson, Marie Evans, Chris Godwin and Matt Lorne for the accompaniment they have provided to the young people. A big thank you must also go to the team at SS. Peter and Paul for all the work behind the scenes. Please pray for our young people.

Father Peter.

Holy Hand Mass

On **Sunday, 30th August**, the Archdiocese will gather at the spectacular church of St. Oswald at Ashton-in-Makerfield at 15:00 for the annual Pilgrimage Mass to the Holy Hand of St. Edmund Arrowsmith. The Principal Celebrant of the Mass will be Fr. John Hogan, a priest from Ireland who has recently written a book on the life of the saint. St. Edmund almost certainly ministered in our parish. Widnes has a special connection with him. The 'Holy Hand' of St. Edmund is enshrined in the church at Ashton, and there will be an opportunity to venerate it at the end of the Mass. In 1735, a young man in Widnes was cured from fever, convulsions, and the loss of the use of his legs, by venerating this sacred relic. So many miracles have come about through St. Edmund's powerful intercession! A coach will be leaving Widnes at **13:30** on the day, a seat upon costing only £10! Please book your place by passing your money into the Parish Office in an envelope clearly marked with 'Holy Hand Mass' and your name. The coach is already half full...so please get your name down as soon as possible.

Catholic Social Action Conference

This year's 'Catholic Social Action Conference' is taking place at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on Friday 10 July 2026. To register, simply search 'Catholic Social Action Conference 2026 Liverpool' on the internet. The social action conference is an annual event in the life of the Archdiocese, bringing together people working in the faith-based charity sector, volunteers, and anyone with a particular interest in social justice advocacy and Catholic Social Teaching. It's a chance to meet others working towards similar goals, learn and share experiences from the ground, and explore current issues shaping social action today. In line with current emphases in developing Catholic Social Teaching, this year's conference theme is 'Humanitas: Flourishing in Action', where we'll be reflecting on the emerging risks and challenges associated with prioritising human flourishing within Catholic Social Action. There is an excellent line-up of speakers and workshop hosts, including a keynote from Jenny Sinclair, Director of Together for the Common Good and host of the Leaving Egypt podcast.

Deacon Paul Rooney.

Father Patrick Van der Vorst

Fr. Patrick is a priest of the Diocese of Westminster, who prior to his ordination to the priesthood, worked in the world of art and antiques. He uniquely marries his passion for art with his ministry. He has an excellent website, 'Christian Art' which he and his team run. You can also subscribe to a daily email from Christian Art, via the website, which provides you with a brilliant commentary on the daily gospel reading, linked to a work of art. The reflections are very interesting and completely free. Please search, 'Christian Art' on the internet.

Taizé Service

Parishioners will gather once again to pray using the beautiful chants of the Taizé Community on Monday 22nd June at St. Basil's at 19:00. The theme will be 'Bless the Lord, my soul'. Some of our Anglican friends, including Rev. Michelle will be present. All are welcome!

Deanery Mass

This month's Deanery Mass will be a little bit different. It will take place next Friday, 26 June, at 12.00 noon in St Mary's Shrine, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NS. There is two hours free parking in the nearby Cockhedge Centre (WA1 2QQ). St. Mary's Shrine, together with St Benedict's and St Oswald's, forms the Parish of Blessed James Bell in central Warrington. However, St Mary's is in care of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) which celebrates the Mass and the Sacraments as they were before the Second Vatican Council in the 1960's. I thought it would be good for us to experience the Mass in this way which is permitted in our Archdiocese. Some things will be strange to us now, but many of us will remember them from our childhood: the altar faces the wall of the church, communion is on the tongue and most of the Mass will be in Latin. The priests of the Shrine understand that this may be challenging but want us to feel very welcome. There will be a sheet available explaining what is happening and the music will include a couple of well-known hymns as well as the Missa de Angelis which will be familiar to many of you. When Archbishop Malcolm appointed me to Warrington, I agreed to host the FSSP because I thought Pope Benedict was right when he said that the old Latin Mass and the Mass we're now used to in our parishes could exist side by side. Having one of our Deanery Masses at St. Mary's Shrine is an important milestone in accepting and respecting different ways of worshipping God. So, I hope you will come along to next Friday's Deanery Mass at St. Mary's Shrine. It may not be your way of worshipping God, but your presence will show others that we are a Church that welcomes everyone and allows for different ways of worship. **Canon Dave Heywood (Dean).**

Ecumenical News

Rev. Michelle Goodwin has invited St. Wilfrid's parishioners to her service of licensing at St. Ambrose Church in Halton View on **Tuesday 14th July at 19:00**. Members of the clergy team will be present. We pray for Rev. Michelle, and the entire Anglican community as they begin this new phase in their faith together.

Young Catholics in Widnes

The next event will take place this **Sunday, 21st June**. We will gather to watch 'Beckett', the 1964 Academy Award-winning film about Saint Thomas à Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury and martyr. We'll have snacks and drinks too. All are welcome. Follow us on Instagram '@young_catholics_in_widnes' for more! Our pilgrimage day to Arrowsmith House is already fully booked!

Family of Parishes Mass and Meeting

On Tuesday 23rd, the Vision Group, together with representatives of Holy Family Parish, Cronton, will meet to continue discussions around the Parish Development Plan. We will join the community at Holy Family for Mass at 9:30.

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

A new attempt to push this Bill through has been launched. A debate and vote in the Commons could come as early as 11th September. During the in-depth and essential scrutiny of the Bill in the previous Parliamentary Session, there were warnings from several bodies and individuals, including Royal Colleges, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Former Chief Executive of NHS England and most critically, people with disabilities. Derek Twigg, Member of Parliament for Widnes and Halewood has consistently expressed his opposition to the bill. Archbishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, is calling on people of goodwill to join in work and prayer to prevent this flawed bill from succeeding.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday 21st June

09.00 Holy Mass
10.15 Holy Mass
11.30 Holy Mass
16.00 Holy Mass

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Bede Angela Hilton
St. Michael James Gallagher
St. Bede Parishioners
St. Bede Margaret Riley

Monday 22nd June

12.00 Holy Mass
19:00 Taizé Service

Feast of SS. John Fisher and Thomas More

St. John Fisher Marie Clemson
St. Basil

Tuesday 23rd June

9:30 Holy Mass

Tuesday week 12 in Ordinary Time

Holy Family Sheila Houghton

Wednesday 24th June

No Mass/Service

Solemnity of the Nativity of

St. John the Baptist

Thursday 25th June

No Mass/Service

Thursday week 12 in Ordinary Time

Friday 26th June

12:00 Deanery Mass

Friday week 12 in Ordinary Time

St. Mary's, Warrington.

Saturday 27th June

16.30 Holy Mass
18.00 Holy Mass

Vigil of SS. Peter and Paul

St. Basil Peter Donaghy
St. John Fisher Joan Ainscough

Sunday 28th June

09.00 Holy Mass
10.15 Holy Mass
11.30 Holy Mass
16.00 Holy Mass

Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul

St. Bede Martha Tague
St. Michael Terrance Dickens
St. Bede Brian Colquit
St. Bede Joyce O'Connor

Parish Office

Please note, the Parish Office will be closed from 12:00 on Friday 26th June.

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St. Bede: Thanksgiving
St. Basil: Agnes Turner
St. John Fisher: Special Intention
St. Michael: Linda Dunne

Rest in Peace

Bernadette Meaden,
Timothy Williams,
Denis Ward.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!