

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



22nd February 2026

First Sunday of Lent (Year A)

*There will be a Second Collection
next weekend for SVP.*

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St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
Widnes
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WA8 6EL

Parish Clergy:

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Deborah Kenna

Psalm Response

'Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned'.

Gospel Acclamation Verse

**'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from
the mouth of God'.**

Lenten Journey: Listening to the Voice of Jesus

Lent invites us into the desert of Lent—not as a place of abandonment, but of encounter. It is there, in the quiet and the struggle, that voices compete for our attention. The devil's whisper is subtle and familiar: *You are not worthy. You have failed too many times. This is too hard.* These voices sow doubt, discouragement, and fear, pulling us away from hope.

But Lent calls us to listen more closely—to tune our hearts to the voice of Jesus. His voice does not accuse; it invites. It does not condemn; it heals. Jesus speaks with truth and mercy, reminding us of who we are and to whom we belong. He calls us not to perfection, but to faithfulness.

The journey of Lent is not about turning inward in shame but turning back with trust. God's call is simple and persistent: *"Return to me with your whole heart."* Not part of it. Not the polished pieces. All of it—the broken, tired, distracted, and hopeful parts too. When we bring our whole selves to Him, we discover that His mercy is greater than our weakness.

As we walk this Lenten path, may we learn to recognise the voices we listen to. May we reject the lies that pull us away from God's love and cling instead to the voice of Jesus, who leads us gently toward repentance, renewal, and life. And with every step, may we remember: no matter how far we wander, Christ is always waiting for us to come home.

Fr. Mark, PP

Rite of Election

This year we are once again greatly blessed to have twelve adults preparing to become full members of the Roman Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. This **Sunday at 3:00pm**, at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, they will be enrolled in the Book of the Elect by Archbishop John Sherrington. They will be blessed and formally welcomed as they enter the final six-week period of preparation before receiving the Sacraments at Easter. Please keep these twelve candidates very much in your prayers as they take this significant and joyful step into full communion with the Church Universal.

Chrism Mass – Wednesday 1 April 2026 at 7.30pm

This year's Chrism Mass, when the whole Church gathers at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King during Holy Week, promises to be a wonderful and prayerful occasion.

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 – Chrism Mass

All visiting servers are asked to bring their own vestments and to gather in the Gibberd Room by 6:45pm. To ensure that sufficient benches are allocated to servers from across the Archdiocese, and in accordance with our safeguarding policy and good practice, all servers must reserve their place in advance. Please submit your name to the Parish Office as soon as possible, clearly marked '*Altar Server – Chrism Mass*'. We look forward to welcoming altar servers to this memorable occasion in the liturgical life of the Cathedral and the Archdiocese.

Please note: Altar Servers must pre-book their attendance in order to robe, in accordance with safeguarding policy.

Planning Meeting - Lourdes 2026

We are holding a Planning Meeting for this pilgrimage at **7pm on Thursday 26th February** at St. Bede's Presbytery. At this meeting we will outline the programme, (try to) answer questions, hand out booking forms and make initial arrangements to get deposits paid and sent off.

The dates for the pilgrimage 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.

If you would like to find out more about the pilgrimage, please pass your name and contact details into the parish office and come along to the Planning Meeting. All are welcome!

Denise Roberts and Dcn. Paul

Parish Choir

Our next practice, preparing for the Easter Liturgies, will be on **Tuesday 24th February**. All are most welcome, sadly though, at this time, all members of the choir must be over 18 due to safeguarding guidance.

An Invitation to all Extraordinary Ministers and Sacristans.

Inspired by the late Pope Francis, the Parish Vision Group is endeavouring to accompany all those who exercise a ministry at St. Wilfrid's. Our accompaniment gatherings offer an invaluable space for prayer, reflection and conversation. All Extraordinary Ministers have been invited to gather on **24/02/26 at 19:00 in St John Fisher Parish Hall**. All Sacristans have been invited to a gathering on **02/03/26 in the St. Edmund Arrowsmith Room** immediately after the **9:30 Mass at St Basil**. Please pray for all who exercise these important ministries in this parish.

Fr. Peter.

Gift of Life for Zambia Trip to Oswaldtwistle Mill with a tour of Pendle Hill

For more information, please contact Monica (424 8194) or Angela (424 8668). Thank you.

Invitation to Journey in Faith – Sacrament of Confirmation 2026

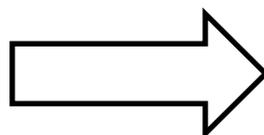
Together with Saints Peter and Paul Catholic High School, the Parish is inviting all baptised Catholic young people in Year 8 (and above) to join our 'Journey in Faith – Sacrament of Confirmation 2026' opportunity. In previous years, we have provided a 'Confirmation Programme'. This year, we are providing a more rounded introduction to Jesus Christ and his Church, leading to the Sacrament of Confirmation and beyond. The first part of the journey will focus on accompaniment, therefore allowing our young people to encounter God (through prayer, scripture and discussion) and will last for around six weeks. At the end of this phase of the journey, we will celebrate a Commitment Mass at Saint Basil's Church, during which, our young people will commit themselves to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation a few weeks later.

After the Commitment Mass, the second part of the journey will focus on Confirmation itself, preparing our young people to be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The journey promises to be an exciting and interesting opportunity for our young people. The sessions will not be too onerous or exhausting, but rather, a space for reflection, encounter and prayer. We are seeking to meet them where they are at and journey with them to somewhere new. Should your young person wish to be part of this journey, then please enroll, using the affixed **QR Code by Friday 27th February**. The journey timetable is below. **Should this invitation be accepted, it is important that your young person attends all sessions.** I am very grateful, to our excellent Catholic High School, Saints Peter and Paul, for their co-operation. We would not be able to deliver this opportunity without their enthusiasm and resources. Please pray for everyone involved in this journey.

Fr. Peter.

PART 1 - JOURNEY IN FAITH			
EVENT	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Session 1	03/03/2026	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 2	10/03/2026	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 3	17/03/2026	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Tour of the Church	24/03/2026	15:30-16:30	Saint Michael Church, WA8 8TF.
SCHOOL BREAK			
Session 5	14/04/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 6	21/04/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
PART 2 – SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION			
Commitment Mass	25/04/26	16:30 – 17:30	Saint Basil Church, WA8 4PE.
Session 7	28/04/26	15:00 – 15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 8	05/05/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 9	12/05/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 10	19/05/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
SCHOOL BREAK			
Session 11	02/06/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Session 12	09/06/26	15:00-15:45	Saints Peter and Paul, WA8 7DW.
Conferral of Confirmation	18/06/26	19:00 – 21:00	Saint Michael Church, WA8 8TF.

SCAN TO REGISTER



Parish Liturgy

Sunday	22nd February	First Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Anne Clarke
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	The Bonnon Family
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Elizabeth Syze & George Roberts
15.00	Rite of Election	Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King	
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Harry Palin
Monday	23rd February	Week 1 of Lent	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Tony Baker
10.00	Funeral Service	St Bede	Veronica Mary Davenport
Tuesday	24th February	Week 1 of Lent	
12.00	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St Bede	
Wednesday	25th February	Week 1 of Lent	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Basil	Mary Christina Hanratty
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mike (Bernard) Connolly
14.00	Lenten Service with Ashes	St. Bede	St. Bede's Junior School
Thursday	26th February	Week 1 of Lent	
10.30	Holy Mass (Years 3 & 4)	St Michael School	Audrey Fallon
12.00	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St Michael	
Friday	27th February	Week 1 of Lent	
12.00	Deanery Mass	St Oswalds Padgate	James Fay & Annette Parker
12.00	Stations of the Cross	St Michael	
13.00	Stations of the Cross	St Basil	
Saturday	28th February	Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent	
12.00	Medjugorje Mass	St Basil	Jean Mannion
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Maureen Mahon
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	John Potter
Sunday	1st March	Second Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Harrison
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ronni Murray
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mary & Patrick Hammond

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede:	Ronni Murray
St Basil:	Luke Dharmapala
St John Fisher:	Moria Kelly
St Michael:	Threasa Ambrose

Rest in Peace

Margaret Fillingham, John Kinsella,
Marie Lynch, Paul Finnigan,
Tony Woods, Jacqueline Jordan
& Elizabeth Stone
May the Angels lead them into Paradise!