

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



## Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

24<sup>th</sup> August 2025

### 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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### Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

### Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

### Psalm Response

**'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.'**

### 18-35 Pilgrimage Day

Last Saturday, 14 of us embarked on a pilgrimage to Holywell and Pantasaph. After gathering at St. Bede's for a Mass of Our Lady, we boarded the minibus for Holywell, the Lourdes of Wales, our first destination. At Holywell, we heard the ancient story of St. Winefride and blessed ourselves with the sacred waters of her well. Afterward, we headed up to Pantasaph, to seek the intercession of St Padre Pio at his national shrine. There we prayed St. John Henry Newman's Short Stations of the Cross, enjoyed a picnic, and took a wander. We finished in Conwy for a chippy tea and got back to Widnes at about 19:30. Thanks must go to Susan Warburton for organising the minibus.

This was the first pilgrimage I have led as a priest. I'm super pleased with how it went. Pilgrimage is an important thing for us youngsters. Indeed, during our initial meeting, it's one of the things we asked for. So, I'm already cooking up plans for a pilgrimage to Walsingham!

We gather next on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>** at **12:30** for a Mass of St. Edmund Arrowsmith and then a BBQ in the St. Bede's Garden. Come along, bring a friend, spread the word.

**Fr Peter**

### Mass in honour of St. Edmund Arrowsmith

All parishioners are invited to a special Mass on **Saturday 30th August** at St. Bede's to celebrate the feast of our local martyr, St. Edmund Arrowsmith (1585-1628). The Mass will begin at **12:30**. Some members of our 18-35 group will be ministering during the liturgy too. Multiple sources attest to St. Edmund working in what is now Widnes. Born in Haydock, he trained for the priesthood at Douai in France. After ordination, he returned to Lancashire to minister to his persecuted contemporaries. St. Edmund was eventually captured at Gregson Lane, near Brindle. He was found guilty of being a Roman Catholic Priest during a show trial and sentenced to death by being hung, drawn, and quartered. He was brutally murdered by the state at Lancaster Castle on 28th August 1628. Pope Paul VI canonised him in 1970, and his holy hand is venerated at Ashton-in-Makerfield.

During the Mass, we will see two important artefacts associated with St. Edmund. Firstly, the famous 'Appleton Chalice'. This chalice dates to the time of St. Edmund. Secondly, the 'Appleton Vestments' will be worn by myself and Fr Mark. These vestments predate the era of St. Edmund and are therefore very ancient. It is possible that he wore them, when in Widnes.

Pope Francis encouraged us to celebrate our 'neighbourhood saints'. We should take his advice to heart. St. Edmund is a local lad who knew this part of the world. We've got other neighbourhood saints too. In Warrington, there is St. Elphin and Blessed James Bell. In Chester, St. Werburgh. In the north of our diocese, St. John Southworth, and in Croxteth, Blessed Richard Hurst. I know St. Anthony of Padua and St. Therese are both wonderful saints, but let's not forget our local heavenly friends. May we ask them to intercede for us!

### St. Michael's Church

Following the open meeting of the 4th of August, the Vision Group would like to offer a further opportunity for consultation so that all parishioners can be heard. The final opportunity will be on,

**Thursday 4th September at 7pm at St. Bede's Church.**

In addition, you can email your views to the Vision Group on [m.moran@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.moran@rcaol.org.uk) or send a written response to the parish office 'FAO The Vision Group'. The deadline for responses is **Friday 5th September**. The Vision Group will collate all parishioner contributions and pass them onto Mgr. Philip Inch who will share them with John Sherrington, Archbishop of Liverpool.

**Parish Vision Group**

*(Peter McCann, Fr. Mark Moran, Denise Roberts,  
Pauline Rolt, Rev. Paul Rooney, Fr. Peter F. Ross, Susan Warburton).*

### Fr. Joe Bibby – Ruby Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood

Fr. Joe has kindly invited St. Wilfrid's parishioners to his jubilee on **Saturday 27th September** at St. Mary's Church in Leyland. After Mass we have been invited to share the buffet reception in the community Centre. If people would like to go, we could organise a coach to get us to and bring us home from Leyland. Fr. Joe obviously needs to know how many people will be attending from Widnes.

So, if you would like to attend this wonderful event, please pass your name and telephone number with £10pp to cover the cost of the coach into the Parish Office asap. Please mark your envelope '**Fr. Joe's Jubilee**'. We shall depart St. Bede's at **10.15am** and we should return to Widnes around **4.30pm**. Ad multos annos Fr. Joe!

**Closing date for numbers for the coach is Sunday 31st August.**

### Parish Office

Please remember that the Parish Office opening hours for the month of August are:

**Monday to Friday – 9am – 1.30pm**

Please try and direct your needs and queries during these hours.

### Mass of Thanksgiving – Archbishop Malcolm

On **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7pm** at the **Metropolitan Cathedral**, we will celebrate Holy Mass in thanksgiving for Archbishop Malcolm's ministry as Metropolitan Archbishop of Liverpool. This will be followed by a drink's reception in the Cathedral Crypt. We are all invited to attend.

If you would like to attend this Mass, there will a coach leaving St. Bede's Church at 6pm and returning at 10pm. If you would like a place on the coach please pass your name, telephone number and £10pp and we shall reserve you a place.

### Cleaning at St. Bede

Calling all mops and buckets and strong arms!

St. Bede Church has completed the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of the restoration, and it will be a couple of months till Phase 2 starts as we have to tender all the work and have the plans approved. So, we shall start using St. Bede's Church during the week for Mass but not for funerals. St. Bede's Church needs a good clean! We shall also need some strong arms to move the benches! Can I ask that anyone who is free on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August at 10am**, (straight after the 9.30am Mass) to come along to give the church a good scrub and polish. Please bring mop buckets, mops and cloths and we shall give the church a 'good do', before we begin to use the church again. Many thanks!

### Accompaniment – Ministry of Reader

On **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm** at the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher all readers are invited and encouraged to attend a time of prayer, reflection and discussion surrounding your ministry amongst us. This time is so important and will be led by members of the Vision Group. Please make every effort to attend.

### Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

The Metropolitan Cathedral are delighted to announce that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have awarded them Grade 1 listed status, following advice from Historic England.

The Cathedral is now nationally recognised as a building of the highest architectural and historical interest. Deo Gratias!

### UCM Book Sale

The UCM will be holding a book sale after the 6pm Mass in St John Fisher Hall on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. Tea & Coffee will also be available. Come along and have a chat and buy yourself a book.

### New Age Bowls & Curling

New age bowls and curling every Wednesday at 1pm at St John Fisher Hall, Moorfield Road, Widnes WA8 3JA. New members very welcome. Please join us.

# Parish Liturgy

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

09.00 Holy Mass  
10.15 Holy Mass  
11.30 Holy Mass

## **Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

St Bede Marie Thompson  
St Michael Mary (Marie) Morris  
St Bede Hildegarde Muphy

## **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

**No Mass or Service today.**

## **Memorial of St Edmund Arrowsmith**

## **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

9.30 Holy Mass

## **Memorial of BI Dominic Barberi**

St. Bede Susan Barrow

## **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August**

10.00 Requiem Mass

## **Memorial of St Monica**

St John Fisher Patricia Gurney

## **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

10.00 Requiem Mass

## **Memorial of St Augustine**

St. Michael Philomena Sheridan

## **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

13.00 Wedding Service

## **Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist**

St. Michael John & Amy

## **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

12.30 Holy Mass for  
St. Edmund Arrowsmith

St. Bede Sonny Buckland & Malcolm Dixon

## **Vigil of the Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

16.30 Holy Mass  
18.00 Holy Mass

St Basil John Buckley  
St John Fisher David Dwyer

## **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

09.00 Holy Mass  
10.15 Holy Mass  
11.30 Holy Mass

## **Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

St Bede Tom Lyons  
St Michael Joseph Lynch  
St Bede Parishioners

### **Sanctuary Lamp**

*The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.*

**St Bede:** Benny Rudge  
**St Basil:** World Peace  
**St John Fisher:** Patrica King  
**St Michael:** Elizabeth Geraghty

### **Rest in Peace**

Brian Brolly, Patricia Lunt  
& John Hill

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