

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



25th January 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

**Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday and
Thursday this week from 1.30pm.**

Parish Office:
St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
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Parish Clergy:

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Psalm Response

"The LORD is my light and my salvation."

Alleluia Verse

"Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and healed every affliction
among the people."

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

Islands are important

As a Deacon and a Geographer, I was moved to write this reflection about islands because, as you read this, I will be working with the Catholic communities of the remote Outer Hebrides islands of Barra and Vatersay.

The British Isles are made up of the islands of Great Britain, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Orkney and Shetland in northern Scotland, and the Inner and Outer Hebrides on the west coast of Scotland. In total, there are over 6,000 islands that make up the British Isles. So, we are an island of islands, many of which are remote, with only 136 that are permanently inhabited. These islands were formed and continue to be shaped by nature's processes. Change is a constant factor for them and this that creates their intrinsic value.

Britain was converted to Christianity by the islands. The three main early missionary centres were all islands: Iona, Lindisfarne, and Caldey Island, ministering to Scottish, northern English, and Welsh tribes. Islands are important for our Christian identity in Britain.

Being on an island can help us to close the separation between humans and nature that our modern, fast paced lives often enforces. Islands are often places of rest, inspiration and renewal. Geographically and spiritually, islands are truly 'set apart'. Although it is most probably not possible for you to get to the Outer Hebrides, I invite you to create your own 'island' this week.

Take some time out of modern life. Stop, no matter how briefly. Create your own personal island. Reflect. Pray. Be renewed and be inspired. Surround yourself with the natural world. Creating your own island in nature is healing and re-energising.

Deacon Paul

Parish Visitation Continues

Next weekend Archbishop John will continue his visitation to the Parish of St. Wilfrid. He will preside at the three Masses at St. Bede's Church and meet with the clergy and the Vision Group. It truly is a blessing to have + John with us to encourage us and spur us on in building the Kingdom Of God here in Widnes!

Mary Poppins – Liverpool Empire

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! Off we go to see Mary Poppins at the Liverpool Empire Theatre on **Thursday 29th January!** The coach will depart from outside of St. Bede's Church at **6pm** and we will return as soon as the show finishes.

Parishioners Voices Matter! - Pastoral Development Strategy

As you read and heard last weekend, the Pastoral Development Strategy has been launched in the Deanery of Widnes and Warrington. The first task that we have 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 will offer different ways of doing this. Firstly, there will be a questionnaire that will be available to fill in to reflect upon the questions that we have been tasked to answer. Secondly, there will be meetings offered to gather, listen and respond. We hope that every person in our parish of St. Wilfrid participates and has their voice heard.

Ways to Participate

31st/1st February – Questionnaires will be available at the back of all churches. We ask that they are returned the following weekend, **7th/8th February**.

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

Wednesday 18th February - At 7pm in St. Basil's Church there will be another opportunity to gather together.

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, Fr. Peter and Dcn. Paul.

18-35 Group

This Sunday evening (**25/01/26**) at 18:00 at St. Basil's, the 18-35 Group will gather to welcome Fr. Mark Drew, as he delivers a talk entitled, 'An Introduction to Eastern Orthodoxy'. Eastern Orthodoxy is a cause of great intrigue among young Catholics, much due to the attention it gets on social media. Fr. Mark Drew brings rich experience from his time ministering in Greece and is therefore very familiar with aspects of Orthodoxy. We look forward to hearing his wisdom. There will be a quiz in the Arrowsmith Room afterwards. If you're 18-35 and interested in faith, then do come along!

Widnes and Warrington Deanery Mass

There will be our monthly Deanery Mass on **Friday 30th January** at 12noon at St. John Fisher Church. Please come along and pray as a deanery for our work and our mission to build the Kingdom of God, here in this place.

School Senior Leaders Meeting

On **Wednesday 28th January** all the SLT from our parish primary schools and St. Peter and Paul Catholic High School will meet together at St. Bede's Presbytery to spend time reflecting on how we provide Catholic Education to the children and young people in our charge from nursery to the end of secondary education. The clergy team will be present to see how they can better serve our schools. Please pray for this meeting, that we may be reminded of the treasure we hold in our children and young people and in the schools that serve them.

Sacramental Programme 2026

We begin our sacramental programme, preparing our Year 4 children for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion by meeting with their carers/parents to explain the programme and offer enrolment onto this year's programme. The meetings are as follows.

Sunday 25th January

Non-Catholic School Children – 10.15am Mass and Enrolment after Mass in **St. Michael's Church**

Tuesday 27th January

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour RC Primary School – **9.15am in OLPS School Hall**

St. Basil's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Basil's Church**

St. Gerard's RC Primary School – 9.15am in **St. Gerard's School**

St. John Fisher RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. John Fisher Church**

Wednesday 28th January

St. Michael's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Michael's School Hall**

St. Bede's RC Primary School – 7pm in **St. Bede's Church**

A letter has been given to every child in our own Catholic schools and to the schools which are non-Catholic, but if you know of a child who is Catholic, in Year 4, and does not go to one of the parish schools, please bring them on the **25th January** to St. Michael's Church and they can be enrolled.

Fr. Mark and Parish Catechists

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

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	25th January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Bridget & William Hickey
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Marjorie Higginson
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Sam Kamski
Monday	26th January	Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer	St Basil	John Joseph O’Brien
09.30	Holy Mass		
Tuesday	27th January	Week 3 in Ordinary Time	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Bernadette O’Leary
Wednesday	28th January	Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas	
No Mass or Service			
Thursday	29th January	Week 3 in Ordinary Time	
10.30	Holy Mass	St Michael’s School	Our Parish Schools
Friday	30th January	Week 3 in Ordinary Time	
12noon	Deanery Mass	St John Fisher	Valerie O’Neil Terry (Recovery)
Saturday	31st January	Vigil of Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Margeret & Ted Riley
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Eddie Burke
Sunday	1st February	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
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

Bereavement Mass

There will be a Mass for the Bereaved on **Saturday 8th February** 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.

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede:	Special Intention
St Basil:	Mary Rooney
St John Fisher:	Our Parish Schools
St Michael:	Fran Mulvey

Rest in Peace

James Hignett, Joseph Smith,
John Council, William Moran
Joyce Connolly, John Reg Murtha,
Marie Power, Jean Ashworth Stott
Hilda Bennett, Ann Jones & Mary Hanratty
May the Angels lead them into Paradise!