



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



28th June 2026

Parish Office:

St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village

Widnes

Cheshire

WA8 6EL

T: 0151 422 1772

E: stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk

W: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul (Year A)

**Second Collection This Week is for:
Peter's Pence**

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.

Psalm Response

"From all my terrors the LORD set me free"

Gospel Acclamation Verse

"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"

Keep the Faith

Currently, I am closely involved in several ecumenical and different kinds of Roman Catholic 'experiences. This, once again, prompts me to think about how, in the present day, the Catholic Church navigates the complex blend of challenges and revitalisation.

I humbly suggest that key concerns include managing the apparent and profound theological polarisation that expresses itself as a difference among believers over how to interpret doctrine, tradition, and the role of the Church in modern society. This often pits traditionalists, who emphasise rigid adherence to historical dogma and liturgical form, against progressives, who advocate for adaptation, social justice, and pastoral reform.

All this is set against declining church attendance in Western nations and the lasting impacts of the sexual abuse crisis. However, as a Universal Church we are experiencing rapid growth in regions like Africa and Asia. So, where does this bring us as a community of the faithful in Widnes? Perhaps we can think about the following?

- How well do we focus on 're-evangelising' a demoralized modern population that struggles with individualism, isolation, and a vacuum of meaning?
- While lots of liberal parishes face declining numbers, many traditional and orthodox Catholic communities are seeing an influx of young people, including Gen Z and millennials. How are we being both orthodox and progressive?
- How well are we responding to the faithful's desire for spiritual depth and continuity?

Whatever your response is to these questions, we as Catholics are in an increasingly secularized public square. So, keep the faith, keep praying and tell of the love of Jesus.

Deacon Paul Rooney

Lourdes at Home Day

Bringing Lourdes to Widnes!

For many, a pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine in Lourdes is impossible due to cost, time, or infirmity. Yet, the call of Lourdes still rings in our hearts. Once again, we are bringing the spirit of Lourdes directly to our community! Please mark your diaries and join us for this special day of prayer, fellowship, and healing.

Date: Wednesday 22nd July - Location: St. John Fisher Church, WA8 3JA.

Schedule of the Day:

- 7:00am – Mass of St. Bernadette
- 12noon – Service for the Anointing of the Sick
- 1:00 pm – Lunch in the Parish Hall
- 7:00pm – Rosary and Torchlight Procession

Sick & Housebound Parishioners

We want to help you be with us! You will receive a letter offering to arrange transport to the 12:00noon Anointing Service and the 1:00pm lunch. Please reply to the letter to let us know if you need a ride. **Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette – Pray for us!**

Young Catholics in Widnes

We had a great time last Sunday watching 'Beckett' (1964). Many thanks to Gisélia and Lorena who provided us with some delicious Brazilian snacks! We meet next on Sunday, 12th July, at 18:00 at St. Basil. I'm very pleased to announce that we will be spending an evening with the many 1st Class Relics and heritage items of the Parish. Peter McCann (Parish Archivist) will be bringing and showing our various relics and precious items and taking us on a tour through them. Did you know we have an authenticated relic of the True Cross? Did you know we have a relic which directly links us to Saint Peter? Did you know we have medieval chalices and vestments which have survived the Reformation? Did you know we have various pieces of church plate made by Augustus Pugin (Architect of 'Big Ben')! There will be an opportunity to venerate these holy relics too. You won't want to miss this! Afterwards, we'll have some refreshments and do a quiz (with a twist). Hope to see you there! Also, our Pilgrimage Day is now fully booked. However, if you still want to come, I can arrange another car. Let me know ASAP. **Fr. Peter Ross**

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 Choir

The next Parish Choir practice is on **Tuesday 21st July 2026, 7pm** in St. Bede's church.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026 – Group Meeting

The time is drawing close for our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes and so we invite all our pilgrims to meet to discuss travel logistics and go through the itinerary. The meeting will be at **7pm on Wednesday 1st July in St. Basil's**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Denise Roberts and Dcn. Paul Rooney

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.

Anniversary Mass at St. Joseph's, Penketh

Monsignor John Butchard will celebrate a special Mass on **3rd July 2026 at 18:30** at St. Joseph's, Penketh, in thanksgiving for his 60 years of ministry as a priest. All are welcome. May God's grace be with you, Monsignor John. Thank you for your witness!

Vision Group

Walking the path of faith together as a parish community

Our parish Vision Group currently meet fortnightly in an endeavor to 'keep a finger on the pulse' of parish life with all its joys and challenges! By praying, listening, conversing, discerning, supporting, accompanying, challenging and reflecting, the Vision Group are called to look at the *bigger picture* in service of the whole parish community. This *bigger picture* calls for close collaboration also with our wider local church, at Deanery and Archdiocesan settings, as part of our ongoing Synodal journey. The Vision Group is a local example of 'co-responsibility', a theme of the Second Vatican Council and recent Synod on Synodality. It brings about collaboration between clergy and laity, to enable an exercise of power in the interests of the common good. In a Synodal Church, all are called to discern the voice of the Spirit, in the light of revelation, on the journey of faith within the Church. We are playing our part to build a world where 'communion, participation and mission' (themes of the recent synod) are lived out and celebrated. **Please continue to talk with Vision Group members as it's your voice that they bring to their deliberations and please continue to pray for them.** We're all called to mission so together let's give each other permission to;

Rejoice! Renew! Re-imagine! Reconsider and Re-vision!

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for July

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	28th June	Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Martha Tague
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael Terrance Dickens
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede Brian Colquitt
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Joyce O'Connor
Monday	29th June	Monday week 13 in Ordinary Time
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer	
09.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil Frank Ames
Tuesday	30th June	Tuesday week 13 in Ordinary Time
11.30	Exposition & Rosary	
12noon	Holy Mass	St. Bede John Swift
Wednesday	1st July	Wednesday week 13 in Ordinary Time
11.00	Requiem Mass	St. Bede Bernadette Meaden
Thursday	2nd July	Thursday week 13 in Ordinary Time
11.00	Funeral Service	St. Bede Denis Ward
Friday	3rd July	Feast of St Thomas
11.00	Funeral Service	St. Basil Timothy Harrison
18.30	Anniversary Mass	St. Joseph, Penketh Mgr. John Butchard
Saturday	4th July	Vigil of Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times
10.00	Bereavement Mass	St. Michael Holy Souls
16.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil Parishioners
18.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher Joan & William Davies
Sunday	5th July	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede 80 th Birthday Thanksgiving
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael Jonh Mulroy
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede S.V.P
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Miriam Eustance

Parish Office

Please note, the Parish Office will close at 12noon on Monday 29th June 2026

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St. Bede:	Mary Timperley
St. Basil:	Joan & Arthur Wilcox
St. John Fisher:	Madge & Bill Houghton
St. Michael:	Michael & Geraldine Wilcox

Rest in Peace

Louise Walton, Denise Britton,
Kathleen Baker, Martyn Rouski,
Angela Geraghty & Patricia Johnson.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!