

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



29th March 2026

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (Year A)

**Second collection next week,
Holy Places & Lourdes Parish Youth**

Parish Clergy: 0151 422 1772

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator)

Rev Fr Peter Ross

Rev Deacon Paul Rooney

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Psalm Response

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me"?

Gospel Acclamation Verse

"Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name".

General Absolution - another perspective.

Pope Saint Paul VI, Pope from 1963 to 1978, brought about many reforms in the Church in light of Vatican II. The most obvious reform was of the Mass. Another reform concerned the Sacrament of Penance (to give 'confession' its proper title). In 1973, Pope Paul approved three rites for the celebration of this sacrament. The first is the normative form (one priest and one penitent). The second is what we usually do in Advent and Lent, our reconciliation service (celebration of the word followed by individual confession offered by lots of priests). The third is General Absolution (hereafter 'GA'). Pope Paul made it clear that GA is only valid in cases of imminent danger of death and/or when the number of penitents greatly outweighs the number of priests. No parish in the Archdiocese presently meets these conditions.

GA was and is offered in parishes, under various guises ('General Absolution Service' or 'Mass of Reconciliation') in the misguided but sincere hope that it might bring lots of people back to the Church. After around fifty years of GA, we can see that people have not returned to the Church; in fact, many more have left. Regardless of genuine altruism, the actual intention behind GA was never to make penance more convenient; rather, to provide God's mercy in emergencies. Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us of this in his 2002 Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia Dei*, wherein he re-emphasised the strictly limited application of GA and made it clear that individual confession is the ordinary and necessary means of reconciliation. He described the "arbitrary" and routine use of GA as a cause of "serious harm to the spiritual life of the faithful and to the holiness of the Church." Lacking the necessary conditions, GA achieves nothing. The love of God is not 'general'. It is personal. An underappreciated aspect of confession is the reality of a relationship being restored. We all need to restore our relationship with God, time and time again. I try to go to confession once a month because I am a sinner. Please come back to confession and experience the forgiveness of God. I speak for myself and Father Mark when I say, we will not judge you, we will be kind. It's not my mercy, it's God's, and I won't get in the way.

Fr. Peter.

Tickets on Sale – Easter Dance

Tickets for the Easter Dance are on sale at all Masses. The Easter Dance will take place on **Friday 17th April at 7pm** at St. Basil's Parish Centre. Tickets are just £5 each and includes a delicious buffet and entertainment! Tickets always go quickly, so get yours now !!!!

Easter Offerings

In the past, the Easter and Christmas offerings went to the priests of the parish, **this is no longer the case**. If you wish to give an Easter gift to either Fr. Peter or myself, they must be placed in an envelope with their names on it. Many thanks!

Fr Mark

Chrism Mass – Wednesday 1 April 2026 at 7.30pm

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** – you must let the Parish Office know if you wish to robe and serve at this Mass.

Opportunities for Confession

Tuesday 31st March at 7pm – Reconciliation Service at St. Bede

You can also ask Fr. Peter or Fr. Mark to hear your confession after any Mass, providing they are not dashing to another Mass or appointment!

Help us to shape Youth Ministry

We want all young people to flourish and to know that they are cherished by God and are a vital part of the Church. So, as an archdiocese, we are committed to explore how we can best accompany young people. Your voice is crucial.

What will happen You will meet others and have your chance to share your experiences and ideas about how the Church might best respond to the needs of young people today. All feedback will be carefully listened to as part of a diocesan-wide process planning youth ministry for the years ahead.

Who's invited?

We want to hear from adults, young adults and 11–18-year-olds (Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult).

Come to ONE of our open meetings.

Monday 20th April 7- 9.30pm - St Joseph's Crow Orchard Rd, Wroughtington, Wigan WN6 9PA

Tuesday 21st April 7 - 9.30pm - St Monica's Fernhill Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 9GA

The process is being facilitated by Danny Curtin, who worked in youth ministry and youth work in the Church for many years. For more information, contact Sarah McGeehan on s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk or 07415099048

Two Cathedrals March

On **Sunday 24th May 2026 at 3pm** there will be the Annual March between our two Cathedrals in Liverpool. If you would like to walk with our Archbishop and other people of faith on the Feast of Pentecost, please assemble at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King and walk in faith!

Grand Easter Raffle & Date for your Diary

Once again, we will be holding our Easter Raffle. As always, the prizes are wonderful and plentiful, and we are very grateful to everyone who donates. Raffle tickets are available at the back of all the churches and in the Parish Office, so please take a few books and help by selling as many as you can. All proceeds will go towards parish funds.

The raffle will be drawn at the **Easter Dance on Friday 17th April** at St Basil's Parish Centre. Tickets for the dance will be on sale on Palm Sunday weekend, so please make a note in your diary and join us for what promises to be a wonderful night together.

Help our young people to go to Lourdes!

This July, Hannah Morriarty, Caolan Rooney and Christopher Roberts will serve on the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage in Lourdes. Hannah and Caolan will serve with the Youth Service, assisting with the sick pilgrims and Christopher will represent the parish as an altar server at all the Masses and services offered to the pilgrims in Lourdes.

The cost for young people to go to Lourdes is high, so can we, as a parish help them to go and build their faith and encourage them as they all serve in the parish as Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers. There will be a second collection at all the Churches on Easter Sunday and also if you would like to make a private donation to the fund, please pass it into the Parish Office for the attention of 'Fr. Mark – Lourdes'. Many thanks as ever for your kindness to our young people.

Continuing along the Path of Synodality

Pope Leo has invited us to continue to embrace the journey of synodality recognising that 'our relationships do not respond to the logic of power but to that of love.' As we journey through Eastertime towards the great feast of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we have an opportunity to reflect on the document that came from the final session of the Synod on Synodality called by Pope Francis that Pope Leo is now urging us to embrace at every level in the life of the Church.

Tuesday evenings 7pm to 8.30pm

21, 28 April, 5, 12, 19 May

To join the zoom meeting use the weblink below, enter the meeting details or use the QR code:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89983555285?pwd=VBTox3xbJiWrU8x00sbiuCGmnO97Xn.1>

Meeting ID: 899 8355 5285

Passcode: 981267

Blossoms

Widnes Blossoms flower club is hosting a FREE taster evening at 7.30pm on Wednesday, April 8. Demonstrator Debbie Davies will fill the stage at Farnworth Methodist Church Hall on Derby Road with stunning fresh flower designs. All are welcome.

Night Prayer

St Wilfrid's Parishioners have been invited to a service of Night Prayer at St Mary's Church in West Bank next Monday at 19.00.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday 29th March

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

St Bede John Paget
St Michael Celia O'Dowd
St Bede Special Intention
St Bede John Arrowsmith

Monday 30th March

09.30 Holy Mass
19.00 Stations of the Cross

Monday of Holy Week

St Basil Irene & Roy Robinson
St John Fisher

Tuesday 31st March

19.00 Reconciliation Service

Tuesday of Holy Week

St Bede

Wednesday 1st April

10.30 Holy Mass
19.30 Chrism Mass

Spy Wednesday of Holy Week

St Michael's School
Metropolitan Cathedral Steven Bate
Thanksgiving to St Lucy

Thursday 2nd April

19.30 Mass of the Lord Supper
(Watching until 9pm)

Maundy Thursday

St Michael Margaret Kilgallon
William & Kate Forrest

Friday 3rd April

11.00 Children's Stations
of the Cross
15.00 Passion of the Lord
15.00 Passion of the Lord

Good Friday

St John Fisher
St Bede
St Basil

Saturday 4th April

20.00 Vigil of the Resurrection

Holy Saturday

St Michael Jean Mannion
Parishioners

Sunday 5th April

(Please note time changes)

09.00 Holy Mass
10.15 Holy Mass
11.00 Holy Mass

Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

St Bede Marie Lynch
St Basil Ruth Bibby
St Bede Winifred & Richard Flanagan

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede: Steve Cawley
St Basil: Special Intention
St John Fisher: Elizabeth Farley
St Michael: Jaqueline Jordan

Rest in Peace

Helen McCutcheon-Kay, Mark Turk,
John Percival, Doreen Taylor,
Thomas Jackson, Linda Dunne,
Joan O'Brien & Joyce O'Connor
May the Angels lead them into Paradise!