



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

3rd May 2026

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.

Parish Office:

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Psalm Response

"May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD".

Gospel Acclamation Verse

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father, except through me.".

New Arrivals!

Words like 'new arrivals' tend to make people think of newly born children! However, these words refer to two new arrivals to the 'parish family.'

Toward the end of March this year, my wife, Jan and I, moved into this parish. From the beginning, the word that has been addressed to us repeatedly is "Welcome! For this we are very grateful. Although we have experience of working in parishes and other groups in the past, moving here involves lots of new beginnings. For example, being part of a series of learning again - what we encounter here as new, what are the gifts of the people around us, what we might bring?"

I come as a deacon to a parish that already has a deacon. In the years of my own ministry, I have not worked alongside another deacon - not within the same parish that is! Nor have I worked in so geographically large a parish, and with so many parishioners actively involved with the parish mission as here.

In the coming weeks we hope to tell you something about ourselves - who we are, where we have come from, what we have been involved with in the past, and hopefully the fruits of those experiences will be helpful where we are now.

Deacon Paul Whitehead

The Drowsy Chaperone – Fr. Philip’s Show

The Drowsy Chaperone is a clever, self-aware comedy that mixes a traditional 1920s-style musical with modern narration. At its core, it’s about a lonely, unnamed theatre fan (called “Man in Chair”) who plays the cast recording of his favorite musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. As he listens, the show comes to life in his apartment, and we see the story unfold while he comments on it.

We have tickets for Fr. Philip’s latest show in Manchester on **Thursday 14th May**. We shall leave St. Bede’s at 6pm and travel in a luxury coach to Mostyn and enjoy the show together, we will arrive home at about 11pm. It promises to be a great night of music and fun! We have limited front row seats and if you would like to come, please pass your name and telephone number into the Parish Office. Cost for coach, ticket and sweets whilst you are watching the show is £30pp.

If you haven’t been with us before, please think about coming, we always have a great time together as a parish family!

Fr Mark

St. Bede Restoration Project Update

The Parish Buildings and Finance Group are working hard in co-operation with our architects to negotiate/ finalise the specification for Phase II (internal aspect), in advance of approval by relevant Archdiocesan/Civil/Heritage bodies. Phase II, as a process, has proved to be very complicated and has involved a great amount of discussion, research, and evolution. As a Group, we are highly optimistic regarding the internal aspect of the building. We feel it will reflect the historic legacy of the building together with present liturgical/ pastoral requirements.

The Buildings and Finance Group

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a Rosary for Peace

Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XVI urges us to pray for peace. On **Wednesday 6th May** at **7pm** at **St. Bede’s Church** there will be a time of prayer, listening to the Sacred Scriptures and reciting a rosary to the Mother of God, the Queen of Peace, for reconciliation in our broken world. Please make every effort to attend and be united in prayer for peace with His Holiness and Christians throughout the whole world.

Parish Choir

Next practice: **Monday 18th May, 7pm at St. Bede’s Church**. All are welcome to attend! Due to safeguarding advice no unaccompanied under 18’s may attend. Future rehearsals are **Tuesday 23rd June** and **Tuesday 21st July**.

18-35 Group

The next meeting will take place on **Sunday 3rd May**, 18:00 till late at **St. Basil’s**. We will be welcoming Father Darren Jones, Parish Priest of St. Blaise Parish in East Bradford (Diocese of Leeds) as our guest speaker. Father Darren will be delivering a session on the Sacred Liturgy (history and importance).

Father Darren is a very gifted speaker and is renowned for his interest in and passion for liturgy. After the talk, some of our members will lead us through a quiz social with refreshments. If you are 18-35 and interested in faith, please do come along! It might be the best thing you ever do. Follow us on Instagram **@young_catholics_in_widnes** for more information. There are around 50 people in the group now.

Fr. Peter

Could you serve the Church and our Parish as a Foundation Governor in one of our Schools?

What are foundation governors?

Foundation Governors are **appointed in the name of the Archbishop and form the majority of the governing body of a Catholic school**. They have a legal duty to preserve, and develop the Catholic character of the school and to ensure that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed. Service as a foundation governor in a Catholic school is one of the most significant and important ways members of the Catholic Faith community can support the Church's divine mission of helping all to arrive at the fullness of Christian life.

There are few specific requirements. A Foundation Governor must:

- Be a Catholic who attends Sunday Mass regularly and gives true witness to the teachings of the Church
- Be prepared to work with discretion as a member of the full governing body and attend training events to help build up a body of knowledge and expertise.
- Bring a wider skill set to enhance the wider Governing Body in undertaking its collective duties to lead the school and meet the contemporary requirements of the Department for Education and Ofsted.

We are in need of Foundation Governors across all our parish schools; do you have skills that you could bring to the Governing Body of the school. If you want to know more, please contact Fr. Mark either in person or e mail him on m.moran@rcaol.org.uk More information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website.

Welcome Lourdes Hospitalité

On Sunday **10th May** we welcome the Liverpool Archdiocesan Lourdes Hospitalité to our parish. They will be celebrating Mass together at St John Fisher Church at 3pm and all are very welcome to attend.

Chaplaincy Contact Information – Whiston Hospital

We kindly ask that the following daytime chaplaincy contact number be included in parish newsletters for parishioners who may need to arrange general visits or request urgent pastoral support while at Whiston Hospital: **Daytime Chaplaincy (Catholic Desk): 0151 430 1979**

This number is available for general visits and any urgent daytime needs. It operates alongside the existing emergency on-call service from 5:00pm onwards.

Due to increasing requirements around data protection and the need for explicit patient consent, chaplains are no longer able to visit patients without a direct referral or prior permission. This means that “cold calling” on wards may be restricted, and visits will depend on requests made by patients or their families.

In light of these changes, we encourage parishioners and their families to make direct contact using the number above if they would like a visit from a Catholic chaplain during a hospital stay.

This will help ensure that parishioners and their families have easy access to chaplaincy services when needed and can provide the necessary consent for visits

Fr. Michael Thompson, Lead Catholic Chaplain, Whiston Hospital.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	3rd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Doug Smith
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Bridget Donaghy
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Norah Phillips
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
Monday	4th May	Feast of the English Martyrs	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Joan Roberts
Tuesday	5th May	Tuesday Week Five of Easter	
10.30	Holy Mass Year 3 & 4	St Michael's School	Mary Davies
11.30	Exposition & Holy Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mass Association Members
Wednesday	6th May	Wednesday Week Five of Easter	
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Joan Ainscough
19.00	Prayer for Peace	St Bede	
Thursday	7th May	Thursday Week Five of Easter	
11.30	Exposition & Holy Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Frank Rowley
Friday	8th May	Friday Week Five of Easter	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Susan Wignall
Saturday	9th May	Vigil of Sixth Sunday of Easter	
10.00	First Holy Communion Mass	St Michael	John Buckley
10.00	First Holy Communion Mass	St John Fisher	Billy Flanagan
12noon	First Holy Communion Mass	St Basil	Sheila Houghton
12noon	First Holy Communion Mass	St Michael	Eileen Smith
14.00	First Holy Communion Mass	St Michael	Edward Jones
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Olive Harris
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	James Fay
Sunday	10th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Rita Lomax
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Kinsella
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Gerard Quinn
15.00	Lourdes Hospitalité	St John Fisher	Lourdes Pilgrims
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Dave Burns

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede:	The Mercer Family
St Basil:	Jean Hancock
St John Fisher:	In Thanksgiving (MM)
St Michael:	The King / Smith Families

Rest in Peace

Catherine McConnell, Michael Richards,
James Gallagher, Brian Colquitt, Anastasia Deus,
Fr Brian O' Mahoney CSSp, Fr Gerry Cobham,
Paul Milliard & Miriam Eustance.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

