



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

4th October 2026

Parish Office:

Monday to Friday: 9:30-16:30
(unless stated in newsletter)

**(Office closes at 1.30pm, Wednesday to Friday this
week.)**

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Rev. Father Mark Moran (Parish Priest, Moderator).

Rev. Father Peter F. Ross (Parochial Vicar).

Rev. Deacon Paul Rooney.

Rev. Deacon Paul Whitehead.

Psalm Response

"The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel."

Gospel Acclamation Verse

**"I chose you out of the world, says the Lord, that you should go
and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide,"**

'The Deer's Cry'

Music, song and, I think, all the creative areas of art can illumine our faith. A few Sundays ago, during August, there were several songs played in church before Mass. The first of these was called "The Deer's Cry." Unless you know this song, I would not expect you to remember it, lovely as it is. The 'Deer crying out' is an image mentioned in the Psalms. It speaks to us, reminding us, of our need to 'cry out' to God, to recognise our need of God. This 'crying out' for God, in our frailty and fragility, our vulnerability, with our false-starts and mistakes, etc. reminds us, both of our need to return to God for new strength and guidance; and to respond by using the gifts God gives us.

This beautiful, haunting song, "The Deer's Cry", begins with the words, 'I arise today.' This phrase is repeated a couple more times later. Like the words of the song, we too 'arise', more than once. We have need to! The Lord is constantly calling us to 'arise.' The final line of the song, like the first, is, 'I arise today.' It is an encouraging, uplifting thought for us. There are parts of our life that do not 'arise', do not wake up, are not attended to; these areas we do recognise need care and attention, so they can change.

'I arise today, through the strength of Heaven...I arise today through God's strength to pilot me', the 8th century composer writes. Each day, we can be reminded, in this song, of God's creation, of God's presence in and around us, and the nearness of Jesus Christ in our lives. We are fortunate and privileged that these are offered to us every day.

We 'arise' into the generous love of God every day; we are called to respond with the generosity God has placed in our hearts.

Dcn Paul Whitehead

'You'll never walk alone' – Show in Manchester

Join us for a wonderful evening of music, laughter, and friendship! We are heading to Manchester for the latest musical show performed by the fantastic St. Dunstan's Amateur Operatic Society. This is a cabaret-style musical show (not a play) where we will be seated around tables, and a bar will be open for refreshments throughout the evening.

- Departure: 6:00pm outside St. Bede's Church on **Wednesday 11th November**.
- Return: Approx. 10:30pm
- Cost: £25 per person (includes premium seating and coach travel)

Tickets always sell out quickly. To secure your place, please submit your name and telephone number, plus £25pp, to the Parish Office marked for the attention of **Susan Warburton**.

*'When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high and
don't be afraid of the dark!'*

St. Bede's Catholic Infant School

St. Bede's RC Infant School will be hosting an open morning for prospective parents/children looking for a school place for September 2027. The Open Morning will take place on **Saturday 3rd October** between 10:30am and 12pm. All are welcome.

St. Wilfrid's Parish Choir

New members are warmly welcome to join the choir, regardless of whether you are completely new to singing, returning after many years, a past member, or only able to attend occasionally. Please note that due to safeguarding guidance, all choir members must be over 18.

Our upcoming practices will feature a new venue and a date change. We will meet at 7pm in St. Basil's Church on the following dates: **Tuesday 6th October, Monday 26th October, Monday 9th November, and Tuesday 1st December**. All are welcome!

The Blessing of the Animals

An opportunity to thank God for our animal friends, to bless those who are sick, remember our beloved pets who have died, and pray for the many animals that suffer in our world. This will take place at **St Benedict's Church, Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE on Sunday 4 October 2026 at 2pm**. The short service will be followed by treats and refreshments, Bring your pet or a photo of your pet. Please ensure your pet is safe, (i.e. in a carrier or on a lead.)

Pope Leo in France

I was fortunate to see some of the coverage of Pope Leo's Apostolic Journey to France (25th - 27th September). There were so many highlights, but I was particularly impressed by the sight and sound of 80,000 young people in prayer with the Pope at the Stade de France. He said to them, *'You are the saints of France!'* I was further impressed by the sight and sound of 700,000 people gathered with His Holiness at Place de la Concorde for Mass. When in Lourdes, he proclaimed to the sick *"You are not a burden"*, while affirming once again the dignity of all human beings. He has certainly made an impact in France, a country which has seen a great upturn in young people coming to the faith. At moments like these, we can appreciate the power of the papacy, a power not of might or of wealth, but rather of spirit. For in Pope Leo XIV, we have 'Peter', the first and chief apostle, the rock upon which Christ built his Church. When the pope speaks - the world listens! May God bless and protect our wonderful Holy Father. Perhaps we will get a visit soon! I think he should come to Widnes!

Fr. Peter

Preparing for Hospital?

If you or a loved one is scheduled to go into hospital for surgery, medical tests, or treatment for a serious illness, please consider asking one of the priests to administer the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** before your admission.

Due to the busy schedules of local clergy and the high demand on healthcare staff, a priest may not always be readily available or allowed immediate access to administer the sacrament once you are on the ward. By receiving this beautiful sacrament of healing, comfort, and the forgiveness of sins in advance, you can enter the hospital already strengthened by the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit.

The sacrament is not just for those at the very end of life; it is a source of spiritual support for anyone facing a significant health challenge or major procedure.

How to Arrange the Sacrament:

- Speak to a priest directly after Mass.
- Contact the Parish Office during normal working hours to schedule a convenient time at the church or via a home visit.

*Please note: If you do experience an emergency admission, please notify the ward staff immediately and ask them to contact the hospital's **Catholic Chaplain**.*

Fr. Mark and Fr. Peter

Widnes Food Bank Harvest Appeal

Widnes food bank continues to provide food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship. We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge Thank You to St Wilfrid's parishioners for your continued support of Widnes Foodbank.

Suggested items most needed are:

Tinned meat/fish, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Potatoes, Coffee/Tea, Milk (long-life), Cereal, Fruit juice (long-life), Jam/Biscuits, Soup and Toiletries.

Northern Saints Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage to St. Cuthbert's Seminary and Holy Island is **now fully booked!** If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please pass your name, telephone number and the type of room you require, into the Parish Office for the attention of **Susan Warburton**, and if a place comes up, she will contact you. Many thanks!

Liverpool Universities Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy to the University of Liverpool, John Moores University and the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts is based at St Philip Neri Church on Catharine St, L8 7NL. We offer a place of welcome and hospitality for students and staff, helping all to explore their faith, develop their prayer life, and – importantly! socialise with each other and have fun.

The chaplain is Fr Neil Ritchie is always available to help and support students and staff. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Fr Neil. n.ritchie@rcaol.org.uk or www.cathchap.org.uk

Young Catholics in Widnes

Next event: **Friday 9th October, 18:00 at St. Basil's**, 'A balanced view on Vatican II - a talk by Fr Mark Drew'. Social to follow. Find us on Instagram: [young_catholics_in_widnes](https://www.instagram.com/young_catholics_in_widnes). **Fr Peter**

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	4th October	Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Kath Baker
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	May McPhillips
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Margaret Condron
14.00	Catenian Mass	St. Basil	Catenian Society
14.00	Blessing of Animals	St. Benedict's, WA2 7QE	
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Kenny & Case Families
Monday	5th October	Monday Week 27 in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Exposition & Rosary		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Bernadette Meaden
Tuesday	6th October	Tuesday Week 27 in Ordinary Time	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	John Kelly
Wednesday	7th October	Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary	
13.00	Funeral Service	St Bede	Brian James
Thursday	8th October	Thursday Week 27 in Ordinary Time	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St. Michael	John Prendergast
Friday	9th October	Feast of St John Henry Newman	
09.00	Exposition & Rosary		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Billy Jones
Saturday	10th October	Vigil of the Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
16.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Parishioners
18.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Teopista Ascott & Family
Sunday	11th October	Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Francis McLoughlin
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	Mass Association Members
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede	George Grace
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Cliff Edwards

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for 7 days for your intention

St. Bede:	Ray Johnson
St. Basil:	Special Intention
St. John Fisher:	Margaret Burke
St. Michael:	Terenia Gosney

Rest in Peace

Robbie Ross

Remembering all our loved ones.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!