



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



5th July 2026

Parish Office:

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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times (Year A)

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.

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Psalm Response

"I will bless your name for ever, my God and King"

Gospel Acclamation Verse

**"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the
secrets of the Kingdom to little children"**

Pope Leo XIV and Co-Responsibility

Speaking at a recent gathering of Cardinals, Pope Leo called on them to assist him in his ministry of leadership. *"You will find in me one who asks, not commands"*, he said during Mass. This is Pope Leo's gentle but assertive model of co-responsible leadership. The Pope went on to say, *"the authority of primacy belongs to the one who listens and only then leads, to the one who learns and only then teaches."* Listening is a key aspect of good leadership. Pope Leo seems to be making more of a fuss of the College of Cardinals than other popes. Some commentators have remarked that Pope Leo wishes them to function as his 'College of Consultors'. Indeed, Pope Leo asked them to give him their, *"strong, explicit, and public"* support and *"sincere advice"*. The mode for all of this seems to be synodality. Pope Leo pointed to it and said, *"listening, discerning, and taking responsibility together."* He sees synodality as a true model of leadership, not *"a diminution of authority"* but that it *"helps us to understand more deeply the meaning of authority itself."* Last week, members of the SSPX Group undertook a schismatic act by ordaining their own bishops without apostolic mandate from Pope Leo. The Pope pleaded with them at the last moment, issuing a heartfelt and kind plea. The plea seems typical of Pope Leo, *"in this spirit, and filled with Christian affection, I plead with you and ask you with all my heart: please turn back!"* Sadly, the plea went unheard and the ordinations went ahead on Wednesday. In Pope Leo, we see a kind, fair and deeply Christian man, who is trying his very best to build bridges of communion. We must pray for him everyday, as his task is immense. He is a leader who 'asks' and does not 'command'. May God bless our wonderful Holy Father, the successor of the Chief Apostle, Peter.

Fr. Peter

It is good to be home...

For the last couple of months, I haven't been feeling my best. As some of you know, I have been undergoing tests on my stomach and bowel. At the same time, the grief of losing my mum was weighing heavily on me. I felt incredibly tired, so I finally listened to friends and brother priests and took some time away. Thankfully, all my hospital results have come back clear. I have spent the last month in refreshment, prayer, and discernment as I prepare to move forward in our wonderful parish. It is so good to be back. I truly feel refreshed, renewed, and ready to return to St. Wilfrid's.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Peter for stepping into the breach. He has been truly wonderful in covering for me and showing such deep care and love. I am also immensely grateful to the Vision Group, the Buildings and Finance Group, Deb and Syl, Dcn. Paul R, Dcn. Paul W, and everyone else who managed things during my absence. Finally, thank you to everyone who prayed for me while I was away—your prayers truly carried me! God bless you all.

Fr Mark

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.

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 are all called to mission so together let's give each other permission to; **Rejoice! Renew! Re-imagine! Reconsider and Re-vision!**

Lourdes at Home - Letters for the Sick and Housebound

To all Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist:

Please collect invitation letters from the church sacristy and deliver these letters to our sick and housebound parishioners during your upcoming Holy Communion visits.

The letters invite our parish family members to our '**Lourdes at Home**' day. This special day runs in solidarity with the Archdiocesan pilgrimage.

- **What:** Service of Anointing & Lunch
- **When:** Wednesday 22nd July at 12:00 noon
- **Where:** St. John Fisher Church (Lunch in the Parish Hall)

Important Instructions for Ministers:

- **Deliver** the letters on your very next visit.
- **Explain** the details to the parishioner in person.
- **Ask** them to fill out the RSVP section regarding transport and dietary needs.
- **Collect** their completed responses during your subsequent visit.

We will do our absolute best to arrange transport for anyone who requires assistance. Thank you deeply for your continued dedication, care, and vital ministry.

Fr. Mark and the Liturgy Group

Prayer Petitions – Lourdes 2026

You are invited to offer a prayer petition during the Archdiocese of Liverpool Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026. Your prayer petition will be taken to Lourdes by Rev. Deacon Paul Rooney. Lourdes is one of the most significant pilgrimage sites in Catholicism, renowned as a center for miraculous healing and spiritual renewal. Its importance stems from 1858, when a 14-year-old peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, reported 18 visions of the Virgin Mary in the Massabielle grotto.

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes draws millions of visitors annually, cementing its vital role in the global Catholic faith. It is a Catholic tradition in Lourdes to place prayer intentions at the Grotto, where they are prayed for by a priest and, where possible, included during Mass. Please complete the prayer intention form available at the back of each church and return it to the parish Office in an envelope marked 'Lourdes Prayer Petition' not later than **Sunday 19th July**. Please do not put any money in your petition envelope; **however**, if you want to donate towards a Parish Prayer Candle, please place your money in a separate envelope marked **Candle**.

Dcn Paul Rooney

Food Bank

Despite an excellent Tesco Collection, we still need your help to feed those in our community who are in need. If you are to help, we need: Tinned Mince/Steak, Sponge Puddings, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Potatoes, Jam, Pasta'n'Sauce Packets, and 1 Litre Juice Cartons. Thank you.

Simplified Parish Website

The parish website has been re-developed and simplified, to better serve our online presence. The new version focuses primarily on our weekly newsletter, which acts as a doorway into parish life. We will add other features, such as links to our socials, in the weeks to come!

Parish Liturgy

<p>Sunday 5th July 09.00 Holy Mass 10.15 Holy Mass 11.30 Holy Mass 16.00 Holy Mass</p>	<p>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times St. Bede 80th Birthday Thanksgiving St. Michael John Mulroy St. Bede S.V.P. St. Bede Miriam Eustance</p>
<p>Monday 6th July 09.00 Exposition & Morning Prayer 09.30 Holy Mass</p>	<p>Monday Week 14 in Ordinary Time St. Basil Mass Association Members</p>
<p>Tuesday 7th July 11.30 Exposition & Rosary 12noon Holy Mass</p>	<p>Tuesday Week 14 in Ordinary Time St. Bede Miriam Hughes</p>
<p>Wednesday 8th July 10.00 Requiem Mass 13.00 Funeral Service</p>	<p>Wednesday Week 14 in Ordinary Time St. Basil Louise Walton St. Bede Frances (Angela) Geraghty</p>
<p>Thursday 9th July 12noon Requiem Mass</p>	<p>Thursday Week 14 in Ordinary Time St. Bede Patricia Johnson</p>
<p>Friday 10th July 09.00 Exposition & Morning Prayer 09.30 Holy Mass</p>	<p>Friday Week 14 in Ordinary Time St. John Fisher Jennie Baker</p>
<p>Saturday 11th July 16.30 Holy Mass 18.00 Holy Mass</p>	<p>Vigil of Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times St. Basil Joan Fenney St. John Fisher Parishioners</p>
<p>Sunday 12th July 09.00 Holy Mass 10.15 Holy Mass 11.30 Holy Mass 16.00 Holy Mass</p>	<p>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times St. Bede Michael O'Grady St. Michael Clare Rainford St. Bede Brian Glover St. Bede Elizabeth Matthews</p>

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St. Bede:	Maureen Dennett
St. Basil:	Special Intention
St. John Fisher:	Joan & William Davies
St. Michael:	Thanksgiving

Rest in Peace

Denise Britton
 Kathleen Baker
 Jane Fenlon

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!