



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi (Year A)

7th June 2026

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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

“O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord! “

Gospel Acclamation Verse

“I am the living bread that came down from Heaven, says the Lord.
If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever.”

We are blessed. Rejoice!

It is now two and half years since Jane, Caolan and I joined the parish of St Wilfrid. With Deacon Paul Whitehead and Jan joining the parish a couple of months ago, I was prompted to reflect on our own time serving here. I am definitely living my best ‘deacon life’ in St Wilfrid’s and I know that my family also feel very happy and fulfilled in their ministries here. There is so much to be thankful for. There are many reasons to rejoice. Here are just some of them.

I feel that parish life in St Wilfrid’s offers a deep, foundational joy that comes from genuine connection, service and shared faith. There are profound blessings flowing from the parish community that bring meaning and warmth to everyday life. The rhythms of baptisms, weddings and regular communal worship provide tangible moments of grace, renewal and celebration. The privilege of serving a diverse group of people united by a shared purpose creates a beautiful, intergenerational parish family and a deep sense of belonging.

I am continually touched by the work going on in the parish to feed the hungry, to welcome the stranger and to support the marginalised. These wonderful works of charity mean that the parish is indeed the hands and feet of Christ. Because of this, there is real support for each person. I know that when a community is praying for you, checking in and carrying each other's burdens, it brings incredible comfort in times of grief or illness.

It is clear to me that the community of St Wilfrid has, and lives out, a shared mission to spread the Gospel. Living out the faith brings enduring peace and a joy, things that are not dependent on worldly circumstances. Also, we are not afraid of new challenges as we are called to serve.

So, rejoice! We are truly blessed.

Deacon Paul Rooney

Update

As you know, Fr Mark has been unwell for the last few weeks. He has finally agreed to have some time off to rest and recuperate. Please keep him in your prayers as he will you. While Fr Mark is away, Fr Peter will continue to be supported by the Deacons, Office Staff, Parish Vision Group and the Dean, Fr Dave Heywood.

During this time of rest and recuperation, we must give Fr. Mark the space he needs, by not contacting him.

Journey in Faith - Sacrament of Confirmation Experience 2026.

Our young people have journeyed in faith, steadily for 12 weeks! Their commitment thus far has been impressive. The Sacrament of Confirmation celebration is now on the horizon! We will gather as a parish, together with Archbishop Sherrington, on Thursday 18th June at St. Michael's. Please come along and support our young friends. Many thanks to our excellent Catholic High School, SS. Peter and Paul, for their co-operation and facilitation throughout this journey. Please pray for our young people.

Congratulations Monsignor!

We congratulate Monsignor John Butchard as he celebrates 60 years in the priesthood! Father John is renowned in the diocese for his kindness and dedication. Many in our parish know him through the Lourdes pilgrimage. God bless you, Father, and thank you for your ministry!

Young Catholics in Widnes

We had a brilliant time celebrating Trinity Sunday last weekend. Around 25 of us gathered at St. Basil's for Mass in Latin and English and Prize Bingo. The group is going from strength to strength, thank God! The next event will take place on Sunday, 21st June. We will gather to watch 'Beckett', the 1964 Academy Award-winning film about Saint Thomas à Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury and martyr. We'll have snacks and drinks too. All are welcome. Follow us on Instagram '@young_catholics_in_widnes' for more!

Widnes Food Bank

Thank you for your support during May. We are asking for your continued support in June to help those in our community who are in need. If you can donate food to us our current most needed items are:

Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Jam, Tinned Potatoes, 1Litre juice cartons & Soup.

Afternoon tea and St Marie's

The St Marie's Heritage Group would like to invite you for afternoon tea at St Marie's church. This is a free event and an opportunity to catch up with friends and family. We will also be making available the St Marie's Parish "Notice Books" once again for you to look at and photograph. We hope you can join us, just come along between 2pm and 4pm, on Saturday 13th June. All Welcome.

Used Stamps

Fr Bill requests if you have any used stamps that you leave at the back of the churches in the boxes provided. Thank You.

Magnifica Humanitas - a new encyclical from Pope Leo XIV

The Holy Father has released a new letter, 'Magnificent Humanity', on the safeguarding of the human person in the age of artificial intelligence (A.I.). This encyclical is a prophetic commentary on our time, a time of unprecedented technological advancement and uncertainty. One commentator has described the potential of 'Magnificent Humanity' to be, "the most important church document of our lifetime". It is available to read for free on the Vatican Website, but hard copies can, I'm sure, be obtained from the Pauline Bookshop in Liverpool. Here are a few key paragraphs:

1. *"Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together."*
51. *"Among these ideologies, I consider particularly insidious the one that suggests that every person must earn or justify his or her own worth, to the point of attributing greater value to those who are more efficient or effective."*
52. *"No sin, failure, humiliation, or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being."*
92. *"Technology is not simply a tool. When it becomes the standard by which everything is judged, it begins to dictate what matters and what can be discarded, reducing creation to an object of exploitation and human beings to mere cogs in a system driven toward ever greater efficiency."*
128. *"For an algorithm, an error is a flaw to be corrected; for a person, however, an error can be a catalyst for profound change. A person's future is not calculable but depends on one's freedom — elevated by the inexhaustible grace of God — and on the relationships cultivated."*
162. *"Just laws and methods of redistribution are certainly necessary for correcting imbalances, including tax systems that lighten the burden on the weakest and ask for more from those with greater resources."*
233. *"No computational system, however sophisticated, can create a heart that gives itself, or a conscience that discerns good from evil. Even when machines excel in efficiency, a human face that asks to be gazed upon remains the center of our history. This human face is the fullness toward which history is moving."*
237. *"Let us remain faithful to the truth! Living amid incessant flows of information, opinions and images, we know how easy it can be to influence decisions and preferences through increasingly sophisticated algorithms. In this context, it is imperative to cultivate hearts that love the truth, prefer what is right despite the most appealing content and pursue wisdom rather than immediate results."*

May God bless our wonderful Holy Father. Please pray for Pope Leo every day!

Parish Liturgy

Sunday 7th June The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi
 09.00 Holy Mass St Bede Ronni Murray
 10.15 Holy Mass St Michael Parishioners
 11.30 Holy Mass St Bede Norma Hornby
 16.00 Holy Mass St Bede Thomas & Marie Boden

Monday 8th June Monday Week 10 in Ordinary Time
 09.00 Exposition & Morning Prayer
 09.30 Holy Mass St Basil Pam Littlemore

Tuesday 9th June Tuesday Week 10 in Ordinary Time
 10.00 Requiem Mass St Bede James “Brian” Glover

Wednesday 10th June Wednesday Week 10 in Ordinary Time
 09:30 Holy Mass St Bede Sheila Allen

Thursday 11th June Memorial of St Barnabas
 12.30 Funeral Service St John Fisher Mary Kerr

Friday 12th June Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
 12.00 Requiem Mass St Bede Ann Barrow

Saturday 13th June Vigil of Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 16.30 Holy Mass St Basil Rita Darnell
 18.00 Holy Mass St John Fisher George Brady

Sunday 14th June Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 09.00 Holy Mass St Bede Marie Carlile
 10.15 Holy Mass St Michael Frank Rowley
 11.30 Holy Mass St Bede Parishioners
 16.00 Holy Mass St Bede Sheila Quinn

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede: Flo Bewley
St Basil: Fr Tony Rynolds
St John Fisher: Special Intention
St Michael: Mary Davies

Rest in Peace

Patrick Talbot.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

