

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



8th March 2026

Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

**There will be a second collection
next week for Nugent**

Parish Clergy: 0151 422 1772

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator)

Rev Fr Peter Ross

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Psalm Response

O that today you would listen to His voice! "Harden not your hearts."

Gospel Acclamation Verse

**Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world; give me living water, so that
I will not be thirsty.**

HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION – A GUIDE.

Concern about the 'how' of confession can dissuade us. If this is you, then do not be afraid! I have put together this step-by-step guide to break down that barrier. Feel free to use it. It might help you, as we look forward to our Lenten reconciliation services.

PRAY and PREPARE. Ask God to enlighten you, as you read the Ten Commandments and/ or Beatitudes as a prompt. God is our priority, and we are to love Him above all. So firstly, ask yourself: Have I put anything or anyone ahead of God in my life? Then ask yourself: Have I put anything ahead of my brothers and sisters? Make sure to mention any mortal sins (see Catechism for more on this). If you've committed a particular sin more than once since your last confession, then try to remember how many times you've committed it. Try to recall when you last went to confession. Above all, just try your best and don't worry.

CONFESSION. Arrive in good time and take your seat. If there is a queue, use the time to pray. Once inside, begin with the Sign of the Cross, "**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**" The priest may make an opening remark. Then say, "**Bless me, Father, for I have sinned; it has been X days/ months/ years since my last confession.**" You may also describe your state in life (I'm married, I'm single, I'm a priest, I'm a widow). After this, in your own words, make your confession of sins. You only need to mention the sins themselves. Don't explain yourself. Equally, don't mention other people's sins. Try to be to the point, as there will be other people awaiting their turn. At the end, you should say, "**and any sins I cannot recall**". Again, just try your best and don't worry.

COUNSEL. The priest might give you some encouragement or advice. He will also give you your penance.

ACT OF CONTRITION. The priest will ask you to make an act of contrition. This should be printed in front of you. If not, the priest will help you.

ABSOLUTION. This is the central moment of confession. Bow your head, as you hear '**God, the Father of mercies...**' and make the sign of the cross, when you hear the Holy Trinity being mentioned.

PENANCE. Penance is a way of making it up to God. We do something positive to make up for the negative things we have done. Make sure to do your penance.

GRACE AND MERCY. Go in peace, knowing you have been forgiven and that God is imparting his grace to help you avoid sin in the future.

Fr. Peter.

Deanery Synodal Council

Next Saturday morning, **14th March** at **10am** the representatives from across the deanery will meet at the Guild Hall at St. Bede to continue to discuss and journey together as we try to be truly a synodal deanery. This is so important as we try to implement the Pastoral Development Strategy across our deanery and complete the tasks we have been given from the Archdiocese. Please remember this group as they meet in the name of our parish and deanery that the Holy Spirit may inspire and strengthen them in their work.

St. Wilfrid's Parish Representatives: Denise Roberts, Susan Warburton, Dcn. Paul Rooney, Fr. Peter, Pauline Rolt, Peter McCann and Fr. Mark.

Sacramental Programme 2026

This week our Year 4 children begin in earnest their preparation to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and First Holy Communion. What a wonderful time of discovery for the children and their families, we promise to keep them in our prayers. The children will attend Mass as school groups, across the parish this weekend as part of their preparation.

Lenten Taizé Prayer - Let all who are thirsty come...

Do you sometimes feel rushed or slightly overwhelmed? Do you long to pause, to breathe, and to spend time in the presence of God? You are warmly invited to join us on **Monday 9th March** at **7:00pm** in **St. Bede's Church**, where a quiet time of prayer will be offered. This is an opportunity simply to rest with Jesus and to offer all that we are to Him. All are welcome.

Altar Servers Renewal

All those who serve at the altar are invited to gather at **St. Michael's Church** next Sunday at the 10:15am Mass, **Laetare Sunday**, to renew their commitment to their ministry within our parish community. We give thanks for their faithful service among us. If you are considering offering yourself as an altar server in our parish, please come along to this Mass. You will have the opportunity to speak with those who already serve in this important role and to see how you might contribute to our community in this way. You will be made most welcome!

Community Police Drop-In – Friday 20th March

Residents and parishioners are advised that on **Friday 20th March, between 10:00am and 11:30am**, police officers will be present outside St. Michael's Church. This will be an opportunity for anyone in the community to speak with an officer in confidence about any concerns or issues they may be able to assist with.

Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi 2026 Meeting

There will be a meeting for all those interested in coming on pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi on **Wednesday 18th March at 7.30pm**, straight after the Evening Prayer on the eve of the Feast of St. Joseph, at St. John Fisher Church. The dates of the pilgrimage are Monday 12th October till Sunday 18th October 2026. We shall have booking forms for you to take home and return by the end of March.

Come and find out more!

Fr. Mark and Susan Warburton

Time of Prayer for Peace

Do you watch the news and feel afraid? Do you read the newspapers and see the pain of those affected by war and violence? Do you sometimes feel helpless? As followers of Jesus, we are not without hope. We place our trust in the God of life, the God of peace, and in Our Lady, Queen of Peace. In a world that is broken, prayer is powerful. Prayer brings light into darkness, hope into despair, and peace into troubled hearts. Will you come and add your prayers for peace in our world?

Wednesday 11th March at 7:00pm at St. Basil's Church

Office Closed

Please note, Parish Office will close at 1.30pm from **Monday 16th March until Friday 20th March.**

Easter Lillies

Would you like to buy a lily for Easter? Lillies are often bought in memory of a loved one and their names will be displayed in each of our Churches for the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday. Envelopes containing forms will be at the back of all churches, please complete and return them to the Parish Office before Friday 27th March. There is a cost of £5 for each lily.

Chrism Mass – Wednesday 1 April 2026 at 7.30pm

This year's Chrism Mass, when the whole Church gathers at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King during Holy Week, promises to be a wonderful and prayerful occasion. 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 – Chrism Mass

All visiting servers are asked to bring their own vestments and to gather in the Gibberd Room by 6:45pm. To ensure that sufficient benches are allocated to servers from across the Archdiocese, and in accordance with our safeguarding policy and good practice, all servers must reserve their place in advance. Please submit your name to the Parish Office as soon as possible, clearly marked '*Altar Server – Chrism Mass*'. We look forward to welcoming altar servers to this memorable occasion in the liturgical life of the Cathedral and the Archdiocese. **Please note:** Altar Servers must pre-book their attendance in order to robe, in accordance with safeguarding policy.

Trinity Safe Space Charity

Has anyone got a spare smart mobile phone that they are not using or not wanting to sell please? We, at Trinity Safe Space charity, are being asked regularly for them as people do not have one or theirs is broken and they need them. You would need to wipe all your information off them and take off pin codes. Please contact Pauline Ruth on 07395084772. Thank you.

Jubilee Club

We meet every Thursday afternoon at the Parish Hall at St John Fisher in Moorfield Road between 1.30 and 3.30. We would like to invite all parishioners and friends to come along and sample what is on offer. Future events taking place include the spring flower arranging event on 5th March, we have three musical events and a summer outing. So please do come and join us. For more information, please contact Lyn on 07790621767.

Parish Choir

Our next practices, preparing for the Easter Liturgies, will be on, **Tuesday 10th March, Tuesday 17th March and Monday 23rd March**, all at **7pm in St. Bede's Church**. All welcome. However, Sadly though, at this time, all members of the choir must be over 18 due to safeguarding guidance.

UCM Spring Bingo

You are welcome to come along to St John Fisher Hall on the afternoon of **Monday 16th March 2026** and enjoy some company, some tea, some chat, and most definitely Bingo! The event usually starts about 1.30 pm. Free entrance, but you still need your purses for bingo tickets, raffle tickets and tombola. Thank you

Mary's Meals – Small Change Collection

There will be small collection boxes available at the back of all our churches this weekend for you to place your loose change in, as an easy way to support the wonderful charity 'Mary's Meals'. This charity provides meals for children in schools in the developing world. Please pop your loose change in the box and they will be collected after Easter.

Nina Wylie and Elaine Davies (Mary's Meals Co-ordinators)

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	8th March	Third Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mary Bebbington
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Parishioners
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Glover
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Stevens
Monday	9th March	Week 3 of Lent	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St. Basil	
19.00	Taizé Prayer	St. Bede	
Tuesday	10th March	Week 3 of Lent	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jenny Knowles
Wednesday	11th March	Week 3 of Lent	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Anthony Joseph Woods
19.00	Prayer for Peace in the World	St. Basil	
Thursday	12th March	Week 3 of Lent	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St. Michael	
Friday	13th March	Week 3 of Lent	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Mgr. Charles Glass
12.00	Stations of the Cross	St Michael	
13.00	Stations of the Cross	St Basil	
Saturday	14th March	Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Lent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Damian Barr
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Paul Geaney
Sunday	15th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Bernie Glaze
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Pauline Noone
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Joyce Connolly

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede: Matthew Fairhurst

St Basil: Peace in the World

St John Fisher: Golden Wedd: Anne and Geoff Biggs

St Michael: Joan Moran

Rest in Peace

Douglas Smith, Catherine (Kitty) Rowlands,
Elizabeth Stonehouse, Mark Turk ,
John Percival, Linda Dunne
& Doreen Taylor.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

