

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

12th December 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent - Year (C)

**“Listen!
I am standing
at the door
knocking.”**

Rev 3:20



Fr Mark Moran (PP)	0151 513 0024
Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 4021
Fr Bill Murphy	0151 495 1854
Fr Thomas Clarke	0151 424 6641
Fr Thomas Skeats O.P.	0151 424 2738

PARISH WEBSITE: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Facebook: Parish of St Wilfrid Widnes
<https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridswidnes>

St Wilfrid's Parish Office
St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
Widnes, WA8 6EL
0151 422 1772

Please email:

stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk

Office Manager
Sylvia Cawley
Administrator
Deb Kenna

Wednesday Word - <http://wednesdayword.org/parish/index.htm>

Catholic Pictorial - <http://www.catholicpic.co.uk/>

Please note the parish GMAIL address is no longer active.

MASKS

Reminder – Can everyone please wear masks in Church and when entering the Parish Office.

Reflection

Pope Francis is just home from a visit to Greece, Cyprus and the island of Lesbos, where so many migrants are housed. He has been to Lesbos before, with the Orthodox Archbishop of Athens, Leader of the Greek Orthodox Church, Hieronymos. He was visiting the relatively small Catholic communities in Greece and Cyprus, but a visit to Hieronymos was an important part of the trip.

Pope Francis says it as it is and recognised that there was need for the Catholic Church to apologise for its part in the thousand year old division between West and East in the Church, and for helping sustain and at times deepen the division. So, he apologised, strongly. And the apology was noted in a big way.

Inevitably, on the plane back to Rome a journalist asked about apologising. Francis went on a bit, but essentially said that the divisions were not one sided and we Catholics needed to apologise for the part we had played over the thousand years of that division.

But he went on to talk about apology. Asking God's forgiveness is not hard because we know that God says "Yes, go on, you are forgiven", but asking forgiveness of human beings is very different because of the shame and humiliation associated with it and not knowing how it will be received.

But today's world is so full of wars, lives lost and so many other dreadful things that we need the ability to accept the humiliation which may be associated with acknowledging any part we as individuals, as communities or as nations play in that suffering.

If I may add, putting ourselves in that situation is the work of the Holy Spirit, and it is strength, not weakness, in an individual, a community or a nation.

Bishop John

Reconciliation Service

Thursday 16th December at 7pm

St. Michael's Church, WA8 8TF

'Come and hear the words, "your sins are forgiven" and then "go in peace"

Individual confession will be offered to all who attend so that we may be ready to welcome Jesus this Christmas.

Eucharistic Ministers To The Sick

Following on from last week's meeting could I ask that ministers who hope to take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound in the new year let us know who they wish to go out with. Be mindful that this other person does not have to be a Eucharistic Minister but does need to have gone through the DBS procedure. Please drop both your names addresses and contact numbers through the office letterbox or e mail them to stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.co.uk as we are in the process of preparing rotas.

Thank you.

Fr. Mark

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Has your situation changed? Are you sick and housebound and unable to get to Mass? Would you like to receive Holy Communion at home from the hands of a Eucharistic Minister? Please contact the parish office with all the persons details and we shall do our very best to visit when we are allowed. Fr. Mark

NEW DEANERIES – The Pastoral Plan made provision for the following new deaneries in the Archdiocese. Warrington and Widnes, Blessed James Bell, Warrington Holy Family, Cronton Sacred Heart and St. Alban, Warrington St. Joseph, Penketh St. Paul of the Cross, Burtonwood St. Peter and St. Michael, Woolston St. Stephen, Orford St. Wilfrid, Widnes **Dean:** Fr Dave Heywood St Benedict's Priory Warrington WA2 7QE Tele: 01925 630127

Advent Carol Service

As you will all know, we shall be having our Advent Carol Service on **Sunday 19th December at 4pm at St. Michael's Church.**

As children from St. Gerard's, St. Bede's Infant and Junior Schools, also SS Peter and Paul RC College will be attending, it would be great to see as many Altar Servers there as possible.

Although we don't do that much during the service, it is an opportunity to see if we could recruit future servers with our attendance.

Please do not forget your albs.

Third Week of Advent JOY

'God our Father, give us the gift of joy. May we transmit joy to all who we meet this week, showing Your love, peace, mercy and compassion to those who need Your holy touch.'

Lord of Hosts – may your glory fill the earth!

Altar Servers Mass - Boxing Day - Sunday 26th December 2021

As Boxing Day this year falls on a Sunday, our annual Mass for Altar Servers will take place at the **10am Mass at St. Michaels Church**, so all Altar Servers are asked to attend this Mass instead of the Mass they serve at usually.

Please do not forget your albs.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our churches always look beautiful, thanks to the hard work of so many people, yet like our homes we want our church to look extra special around the Feast of Christmas! If you would like to donate some money towards the cost of Christmas flowers then please pop them through the door at any of the presbyteries marked, **Christmas Flowers**. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



Congratulations to one of our Parish schools, St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School who have recently had an OFSTED inspection. Well done to Mr Landrum (Headteacher) staff, governors, parents and children for a great report highlighting what a superb school they are!

"Pupils get a good deal at this school. They thrive socially, educationally and emotionally. Their delight in attending St Gerard's is reflected in the way that pupils arrive at school at the start of the day with happy, smiling faces. Staff know the pupils well and value them as individuals."



St. Wilfrid's Advent Appeal – 2021

So often we buy gifts for people who don't really need them! Socks and scarves that are very nice but not really needed! As Christians we are called to see Advent as a real time of waiting in hope, a time of reflection and prayer and a time of showing our faith in caring for those in need. This year we are going to help asylum seekers, refugees, and vulnerable migrants by giving them a gift that **IS** desperately needed.

All items must be NEW as they are a Christmas gift. If you would like to buy a gift, you simply take a 'Christmas Label' from the back of Church, with an item that is needed and return it with the label attached. This stops us all buying the same things!

Gifts can be left (please do not wrap them) at the back of all the churches during Advent.
(Last date for donations is Sunday 19th December)

Men's underwear – sizes small and medium, Socks – sizes 6 – 12, Warm hats, gloves, and scarves (male and female)
Training shoes – male sizes 6 – 10, Women's underwear – sizes 10 – 16
Small electrical items – toaster, kettles, blender, juicer *(if the receipt could be attached to these items it would be a great help)*, Small and medium pans, Pillows, and pillowcases.

"Joseph got up, took the child and his mother and left that night for Egypt where he stayed until the death of Herod. In this way, what the Lord had said through the prophet was fulfilled: *I called my son out of Egypt*"

Matthew Ch 2 vs. 14 - 15

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 19th December at 4pm

St. Michael's Church, WA8 8TF

'Come and join together with fellow parishioners and children from some of our schools to sing to the coming Christ Child'

Refreshments will be served after the service.



ALL WELCOME

'At present I am undergoing an investigation for a blood complaint and some treatment, as a result of which I will not be sending Christmas greetings this year. Please be assured of my prayers for you all and a remembrance in my Christmas Mass. Please remember me in your Mass at Christmas too. Best wishes'
Fr Tony Reynolds

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Through the kind donations of parishioners, the Immaculate Heart of Mary statue has been restored to its former glory. Thank you for your kindness.



**Immaculate Heart of Mary
pray for us!**

NEWSLETTER

Please note any items for the newsletter must be **emailed** to the parish office no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, if they are to be included in that week's newsletter



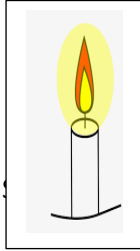
St Wilfrid's UCM

A big thank you to everybody who supported our Christmas Bingo.

A total of £346 was raised for local charities.

An Appeal for used postage stamps

Fr Bill is collecting used postage stamps and would appreciate if you would bring any stamps, you have and leave in boxes provided in church porch.



This week the sanctuary lamp burns for:

St Bede: Billy Norris - 2nd Anniversary
 St Michael: Joan Wilcox
 St Michael: Mary Davies
 St John Fisher: Anthony Austin - Remembrance



Sunday 12 th Dec	<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	9.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 11.00 am 4.00 pm	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Michael</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>)	Edward Clemson Fr Tony Reynolds (Sick) Lois Davies - 8 th Anniversary Parishioners Winnie Burns Birthday Memory
Monday 13 th Dec	<i>Memorial of St Lucy Virgin and Martyr</i>	9.00am 9.10am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Holy Mass (<i>St Basil</i>)	Anthony Fallon - Anniversary
Tuesday 14 th Dec	<i>Memorial of St John of the cross, Priest and doctor.</i>	11.30am 11.40am 12 Noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Rosary Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>)	Michelle Spencer (Adams) 41 st Birthday Remembrance
Wednesday 15 th Dec	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>	6.30pm 6.40pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Evening Prayer Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>)	Kevin McCarthy 2 nd Anniversary
Thursday 16 th Dec	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>	11:00am 12.15pm	Requiem Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St. Michael</i>)	Michael Glynn Jimmy Goss Birthday -Remembrance
Friday 17 th Dec	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9.00am 9.10am 9.30am 11:00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>) Funeral (<i>St. Michael</i>)	Angela Milloy Birthday Remembrance Agnes Kennedy
Saturday 18 th Dec	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>	10.00am 10.30am 5.00 pm 6.00pm	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Confessions (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Basil</i>)	Margaret Peggy Heaton 1 st Anniversary Betty Hyder – LD Jean & Domingo Bernard -Anniversary

St Bede's is open for private prayer - Monday to Friday 10.00am to 13.30pm