

Parish Development Strategy Questionnaire

Summary Report

This document presents an initial analysis of a parish-wide questionnaire assessing perceptions of church venues and facilities within the parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes. The survey was conducted in February 2026. There was a 23% response rate in relation to the average Sunday Mass attendance of 805.

Overview of Methodology and Response

- Questionnaires were distributed after Masses across the four churches of St Wilfrid's parish with 182 responses. This reflects a strong response rate for this type of survey.
- The survey used a Likert scale (1-5) to gauge agreement on six statements related to venues, with options for 'not applicable' if the respondent had no experience of the venue.
- Data from the four different churches were compiled to analyze overall parish perceptions.

Key Findings

- The four churches of St Wilfrid's parish are widely viewed as appropriate sacred spaces for Mass and services, with median agreement at the highest level.
- Most respondents believe the four churches honour God and present a positive image of the Catholic Church, though perceptions vary slightly across venues.
- The four churches are generally well positioned within the community for both congregation and outreach, with high median scores.
- Accessibility by private and public transport is rated positively but with some variation, especially at St Michael and St John Fisher.
- Respondents feel that the four churches can meet current needs and future hopes, with median ratings around 4.
- Pride in church buildings and willingness to support their maintenance is high, though some respondents expressed less enthusiasm, notably at St Michael and St John Fisher.

Overall, the survey indicates strong positive perceptions of the parish's four church venues, with recognition of their spiritual, community, and infrastructural roles.

Chaplaincy Contact Information – Whiston Hospital

We kindly ask that the following daytime chaplaincy contact number be included in parish newsletters for parishioners who may need to arrange general visits or request urgent pastoral support while at Whiston Hospital:

Daytime Chaplaincy (Catholic Desk): 0151 430 1979

This number is available for general visits and any urgent daytime needs. It operates alongside the existing emergency on-call service from 5:00pm onwards.

Due to increasing requirements around data protection and the need for explicit patient consent, chaplains are no longer able to visit patients without a direct referral or prior permission. This means that “cold calling” on wards may be restricted, and visits will depend on requests made by patients or their families.

In light of these changes, we encourage parishioners and their families to make direct contact using the number above if they would like a visit from a Catholic chaplain during a hospital stay.

This will help ensure that parishioners and their families have easy access to chaplaincy services when needed and can provide the necessary consent for visits.

Fr. Michael Thompson

Lead Catholic Chaplain

Whiston Hospital