

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



14th July 2024

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

2nd Collection: Priests in Retirement



Parish Office:

St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 6EL

T: 0151 422 1772

E: stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk

W: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Parish Clergy:

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator)	0151 513 0024
Rev Fr Thomas Clarke	0151 424 6641
Rev Fr Bill Murphy	0151 422 1772
Rt Rev Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 2738
Rev Deacon Paul Rooney	0151 422 1772

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator

Deborah Kenna

Responsorial Psalm

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

Ever Ancient, Ever New.

Last Tuesday, we had the great pleasure of welcoming Bishop Tom Neylon back to Widnes to preside over the Confirmation of twenty-one of our young people. During the very moving ceremony, the candidates renewed their baptismal promises, adopted the name of a heavenly patron and were anointed with Sacred Chrism, as a sign of their being set apart for Christian service.

It has been a particular joy over the last three years to accompany our young people and their families as they prepare each year to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Their youthful enthusiasm reinforces the mystical paradox that the Church is ever ancient, yet ever new. The Lord of the harvest does not cease to revitalise and strengthen the Mystical Body of Christ with each new generation and so the baton of faith is handed down.

Our task, or rather, yours now that I prepare to depart for pastures new, is to create fertile soil in Widnes, in which the seed of faith can flourish in the hearts of our young people. This, in no small part, requires a heroic witness from us, to whom they look for a worthy example.

At the close of my final reflection for the Parish Newsletter, I would especially like to thank all those who work so devotedly in our schools, to create this fertile seed bed, strengthen relations with the parish and accompany our young people - amidst myriad challenges - through their formative years.

Please pray for me, as I will pray for you.

Fr Thomas

St Bede's Restoration

Last Thursday some members of the Buildings Committee met with the contractors and the architects, and the outcome is that we have a date for the work to start in the restoration of St Bede's Church. On the **22nd July** the work will begin, and we shall see scaffolding being erected around the church, and the much-needed work on our beloved church will start in earnest. As ever, we ask for your understanding and patience in the weeks and months ahead as we will need to adapt and change to keep the project on task and on time and so not incur additional expense.

St Wilfrid & St Bede pray for us!

Pilgrimage 2025 to Medjugorje

We are hoping to go to Medjugorje in Bosnia/Herzegovina next year on pilgrimage. The first apparitions that were reported there were in 1981 and it is alleged that Our Lady delivered a message of peace and conversion. Many people believe that Our Lady continues to appear in this place to the visionaries. At this time Medjugorje is not recognised officially by the Roman Catholic Church, but hordes of Catholics come to this place seeking a deeper union with God and Our Blessed Lady.

If you would like to find out more about coming on this pilgrimage with our parish, there will be a short meeting **on Monday 15th July at 7.30pm** at St Bede's Church.

Fr Mark & Susan Warburton

Holy Family, Cronton

It has been our pleasure to come to Holy Family Parish each week to celebrate the 4pm Mass with you. Sunday 28th July will be our last Sunday with you. Fr. Michael has asked us to inform you that during the month of August there will be no weekday or Sunday Mass at Holy Family Church. Mass will resume there at 10am on Sunday **1st September**. You will be made most welcome at the Parish of St. Wilfrid during the week and on a Sunday. Please check the newsletter for our Mass schedule each week.

The Clergy of St. Wilfrid

SVP Financial Report 01-04-2023 to 31-03-2024

Church Collections/Donations £ 4656.00 Expenditure £ 8137.00

We thank you for your generous donations throughout last year and this year. The money collected in donations and church collections was spent on aid for the sick and needy in our parish of St. Wilfrid. The main expenditure was getting food vouchers and Christmas hampers for our schools, help with purchases of school uniforms and other forms of financial help when requested.

Again, we say a big thank you to our many parishioners who have donated to help us in our work in the parish. We are requesting more, not your money but your time to help us in visiting the sick, lonely and the homeless in our parish. If any of you would like to join us, please come and see what we do; please join us at the Guildhall or alternatively post your name and telephone number to the parish office for attention SVP. The guildhall is next door to St Bede's Infants school.

We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The meeting starts at 6.15pm. You would be most welcome. Hopefully, you may join as an auxiliary or full member.

Requiescant in pace

Jean Jones

May the Angels lead her into Paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede

Harry Gregory

St Michael

Special Intention

St John Fisher

Special Intention

St Basil

Ordinands to the Priesthood

Farewell Mass

You are all invited to bid farewell and say thank you to Bishop John, Fr Bill and Fr Thomas at Mass.

Tuesday 16th July at 7pm at St Michael's Church

You are then invited to St Basil's Parish Centre for drinks, tea and cakes! We hope you can come and thank God for the ministry of three priests who have served faithfully here.

Priests in Retirement

'They've Been There for Us; Let's be There for Them'

Our retired priests responded to the call to be priests. They devoted their lives and their all to serving God and God's people. Whilst they 'retire' at the age of 75, they are still priests for life. Many continue in ministry leading active lives – celebrating Mass, serving as chaplains, counselling people in need, supporting parish life and praying for us all.

The Priests' Retirement Fund, known as the George Andrew Fund, ensures that our retired priests enjoy a dignified retirement. It supports independent living, providing them with a suitable home alongside other services. Above all, it makes sure that their social and healthcare needs are met. Our priests rely on this support after devoting their lives to the Church's mission and bringing people closer to Christ. Over the next ten years, approximately one third of our diocesan priests will reach retirement age, and the cost of care will rise significantly as a result of this. With your help, we can continue to offer our gratitude and support to our retired priests.

Please remember our sick and retired priests in your prayers. The annual collection for the provision for priests in retirement will take place after the Masses this weekend.

Petitions for Lourdes

If you would like Fr. Bill or Fr. Thomas to take a petition to Our Lady's Shrine in Lourdes, please pass them into the office before **Wednesday 17th July** and our priests will place them at the grotto and you will be remembered there.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is at the heart of all we do here in St Wilfrid's Parish.

Safeguarding Lead – Fr Mark . **Reps** – Pauline Ruth, Carol Murray and Pauline Rolt.

Any safeguarding concerns, no matter how small, should be reported immediately.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	14th July	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Burke
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Peter Farrell
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	William Les Dean
16.00	Holy Mass	Holy Family	HF Parishioners
Monday	15th July	Memorial of St Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Joan Mary McCallie
11.00	Requiem Mass	St John Fisher	Josephine Dockerty
18.00	Y6 Leavers Mass	St. John Fisher	Children of the Parish
Tuesday	16th July	Ferial	
13.30	Funeral Service	St Bede	John Ellis
19.00	Mass of Farewell for our Priests	St Michael	Pauline Haunch & Pat Price Vincent Byrne Benny Lynch Cynthia McGuire
Wednesday	17th July	Ferial	
12.00	Deanery Mass	St Bede	Fr Thomas Frank Burrows Geraldine Mayes Bowlin Margaret Patterson
Thursday	18th July	Ferial	
09.15	Y6 Leavers Mass	Holy Family	Children of the Parish
10.00	Y6 Leavers Mass	St Basil	Children of the Parish
11.00	Requiem Mass	Holy Family	William Rimmer
18.00	Y6 Leavers Mass	St Bede	Children of the Parish
Friday	19th July	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Hildegard Murphy
Saturday	20th July	Ferial	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Mary & Joseph Freeman
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Bill Cullerton
Sunday	12st July	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	James & Florence Rogerson
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Billy Scott
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Richard & Lilian Shaw
16.00	Holy Mass	Holy Family	HF Parishioners / Alan Clark