



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



8th December 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent (C) Next Week - Second Collection - SVP

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Psalm Response

"What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad."

An Advent Odyssey

Homer's *Odyssey*, the great ancient poem of the 8th century BC, follows the story of Odysseus, the mythical king of Ithaca. Spoiler alert: after a war, Odysseus embarks upon a long spiritual quest to find his way home and in doing so, wages against other worldly forces, strange monsters and natural disasters. It is from this ancient poem that the word 'Odyssey' originates. An Odyssey is more than a simple commute from A to B, it is an adventure, a long spiritual quest.

These days, clergy often speak of 'journeys'. We've all heard them. "Our Lenten journey", "our Easter journey", "our Synodal journey", "our Advent journey". But to me, a 'journey' has always implied a mundane movement (going to the shops) and not a transformative and transcendent encounter with the living God! The word I prefer for spiritual movements is 'Odyssey'. As opposed to a journey, an Odyssey always involves the transcendent, aka; God.

So, I reckon our whole life should be an 'Advent Odyssey'. According to St Bernard of Clairvaux, there are three 'advents' or 'comings' of Christ. His coming as a baby two thousand years ago, His coming in spirit here and now through the sacraments and His coming in judgement at the end of time. In light of this, we see that life should be a long Advent Odyssey, one of seeking and preparation. Christ is always on the way to us (an Advent) and we ought to be searching for Him (an Odyssey). Like Homer, we will encounter wondrous things, behold terrific sights and meet ourselves head on. Above all, the end of our quest will be God.

However, we have to embark upon the Odyssey. We need to search high and low, our whole lives. God is always on the way to us, we need to be poised to meet, ready to encounter Him in the strangest of places. More often than not, He is right under our noses.

Fr Peter Ross

Taizé Prayer Service - Monday 9th December at 7pm - St. Basil's Church

We shall gather to wait in hope for the coming Christ Child. Come and experience through the beauty of meditative prayer, song and silence, the presence of the Lord Jesus

Advent Carol Concert - Sunday 15th December at 3pm – St. Michael's Church

Please come and join your parish community in welcoming the Christ Child in song and listening to the Word of God! The children from our schools will join us and it will be a really festive and beautiful occasion. After the service, tea, coffee, mince pies and wine will be served. Please do not miss this wonderful occasion in your Advent preparations!

Safeguarding - DBS Renewal for Volunteers

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is currently improving how the Update Service works for its volunteer subscribers. The improvements will allow volunteers who are subscribed to the Update Service to **confirm whether they wish to remain subscribed to the service to keep their Standard and Enhanced DBS certificates up to date.**

From Sunday 8 December 2024, subscribers to the Update Service will be emailed 30 days before their renewal date to ask if they wish to stay subscribed. Renewal dates are based on original joining dates. In preparation for this change, DBS advises volunteers to check that the email address attached to their subscription is linked to the individual who is subscribed.

The renewal email will ask volunteers to access their Update Service Account and confirm that they wish to continue with the service. For those who confirm, this request will be repeated annually. If no confirmation is made, their volunteer subscription will automatically be cancelled.

Volunteers who do not renew their subscription will not be able to keep their DBS certificate(s) up to date and organisations will not be able to check them. They will need to reapply for a DBS check if they need one in the future.

If you would like to renew you need to access your Update Service Account and confirm that you would like to keep your DBS up to date.

St Wilfrid's Safeguarding Team

Roman Catholic Primary Schools – Admission Policy

The Archdiocese of Liverpool has directed their schools to undertake a formal consultation process with regard to planned school admission arrangements for 2026-2027. The consultation period will run between 2nd December 2024 and 31st January 2025.

The Admission Policy 2026-2027 and Supplementary Form 2026-2027 can be found on each schools' website and the way to enter into the for consultation can be found there Primary Schools in the parish of St. Wilfrid's Parish are, St. Bede RC Infant School, St. Bede RC Junior School, St. Basil RC Primary School, St. John Fisher RC Primary School, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour RC Primary School, St. Gerard's RC Primary School and St. Michael's RC Primary School.

Second Sunday of Advent - Love

We repent and are sorry for the damage we have caused to our earth and one another.

Come, Lord, bearer of hope.

Guide us as we seek to straighten the paths of injustice and prepare a way for you.

Come, Lord, bearer of hope.

Lead us in your ways, as together we make a change and reach out in love to others.

Come, Lord, bearer of hope.

Office Hours Over Christmas

Monday 23rd December – Office open until 1.30pm.

Tuesday 24th December – Thursday 26th December – Office closed.

Friday 27th December – Office open from 10am – 12 noon.

Monday 30th December - Office open from 10am – 12 noon.

Tuesday 31st December – Wednesday 1st January– Office closed.

Thursday 2nd January – Normal office hours resume.

Offerings at Christmas

In the past, the Easter and Christmas collections went straight to the clergy as their Christmas gift from the parish, this stopped a long time ago! Yet many people still think is still the practice. Every penny of the collection goes into the parish coffers to pay for lights, heating and repairs and towards the mission of the community. If you wish to give a gift to the priests at Christmas the only way they can accept it, if it is in an envelope with their name on it, otherwise it should go to the community. We write this to clear up any confusion regarding this practice, but did we tell you...*"you look lovely today!!"*

Fr. Mark and Fr. Peter

Advent Reconciliation Service – Wed 18th Dec at 7pm - St. Basil's Church

We shall come with sorrow in our hearts for our sins, but leave forgiven after hearing the words of Jesus, *'Go, your sins are forgiven*

Christmas Raffle

At the back of church there are books of raffle tickets for you to buy in aid of the upkeep of all our churches. The prizes as ever are fantastic and have been donated, so all money is profit! Please take as many books of tickets as you can and return them to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The raffle will be drawn at the Advent Carol Service on 15th December at St Michael's.

A Christmas Flower Show - Wednesday, 11th December 2024.

Come join us at the Christmas flower show that is being staged by national demonstrator Dawn Weaver at Farnworth Methodist Church Hall, Derby Road, at 7.30pm. Festive refreshments will be served. Tickets are priced £12 and will be available on the door. All are welcome.

St. Basil's Tabernacle

A big thank you to Steve Warburton who has spent many hours restoring the tabernacle at St. Basil's Church. Also, to Peter Golson who assisted in the removal and the repositioning of the tabernacle. Thank you to you both for your generosity of spirit and your kindness.

The tabernacle case was warped and spilt in many places and has been restored to its former glory, the crucifix has been raised slightly so that the whole wall of the sanctuary is a central focus for prayer and adoration. There is so much kindness and generosity in this wonderful parish of St. Wilfrid, we are truly blessed!

Thank You from Widnes Foodbank and 'Taking a walk in your shoes' Charity

Widnes Foodbank would like to thank everyone from St Wilfrid's Parish, who have recently donated to the foodbank. All donations are always welcome, especially any children's Christmas treats. Also, to those who bought a Nativity Story Book, a massive thank you from this charity was received. We sold all copies given to us and the money has been forwarded to the charity!

Parish Liturgy

Please note there is NO 4pm Mass on Sunday 15th December due to the Parish Carol Concert.

Sunday	8th December	2nd Sunday of Advent (C)	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Winnie Burns
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Eleanor Wood
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Caroline Edwards
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
Monday	9th December	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of BVM	
13.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil (St. Basil's School Mass)	Paddy Ruth
<i>(Parishioners are welcome to attend)</i>			
19.00	Taizé Advent Service	St Basil	
Tuesday	10th December		
12 noon	Requiem Mass	St. John Fisher	Patricia Martin
14.00	Funeral Service	St John Fisher	Dennis Proctor
Wednesday	11th December		
10.00	Holy Mass	St Patrick's Nursing Home	
Thursday	12th December		
10.30	Advent Mass	St. John Fisher (St Gerard's School Mass)	Joan Owen
Friday	13th December	Memorial of St Lucy	
09.30	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St John Fisher	
Saturday	14th December	Memorial of St John of the Cross	
10.00	Confessions	St John Fisher	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Michelle Spencer (Adams)
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Angela Milloy
Sunday	15th December	3rd Sunday of Advent (C)	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Goss
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Frances Fearon
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
15.00	Carol Concert	St. Michael	

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Prayer Intention
St Basil:	Mother Teresa's Sisters (Syria)
St John Fisher:	Vocations to the Priesthood
St Michael:	Expectant Mothers

Requiescant in pace

Patricia Courtnage, Robert Gussion,
Aidan Carney, John (Jack) O'Neill, Margaret
Houghton & Brian Patrick Mc Keown.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!