



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



First Sunday of Lent (Year C)

9th March 2025

Parish Office:

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Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

Psalm Response

"Be with me, O Lord, in my distress"

Young Catholics in Widnes

Our new 18-35's group met successfully for the first time last Sunday! 13 young adults (including me) came along, a real result! The evening began with adoration and benediction and was followed by some refreshments. During our time together, we held a discussion to decide on what we want to explore together as a group. We did this with regard to the two dimensions that will give form to future gatherings; prayer/ faith opportunities and social opportunities (including trips). So, this is what the young adults of our parish want:

Prayer/ faith opportunities; prayer with the bible, bible discussion, general faith discussion, evening prayer (also known as vespers), rosary, mass, prayer in latin, taizé prayer, prayer walks outdoors, praying with the saints, reconciliation services. **Social opportunities;** drinks nights, cheese and wine nights, meals, quiz nights (religious themed and generally themed), bowling, walks, BBQs, icon painting, pottery painting/making. **Possible trips;** a day pilgrimage to Holywell and Pantasaph in Wales/ Ladyewell Shrine near Preston, a pilgrimage to do the 'Camino' to Santiago de Compostela, a pilgrimage to Rome.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Sunday 23rd March, 6 till 8**, at **St. Bede's**, during which we will spend some time praying with and reflecting on a bible passage and then share some cheese and wine together with a quiz. We are looking for as many members as possible, so come along and do spread the word! Please pray for this new group. We are the future of the Church in Widnes.

Fr Peter

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025

Thank you to all who attended the initial meeting to express interest in our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes this year. We have now received further information from the tour operator and can progress the group booking arrangements. The revised dates for the pilgrimage are confirmed as **Wednesday 23rd July to Thursday 31st July 2025**. We will travel as **one group** on these dates.

We have block booked rooms for the parish in the **Hotel Roissy**, located 100 metres from the entrance of Lourdes Sanctuary. This 4-star hotel offers soundproofed and air-conditioned rooms with free Wi-Fi and a flat-screen satellite TV. The cost (without single room supplement but including the extra night due to the changed dates), is £1,075.00. We require a **deposit of £350.00** by cash or cheque made payable to 'Northern Star Travel Ltd' to secure your place.

To progress our group booking we ask that all pilgrims attend a short meeting in St Bede's presbytery at **7pm on Wednesday 12th March** to fill out a 'completion of booking' form and to pay the deposit. There may be an opportunity for anyone who hasn't expressed an interest so far to join us. Please come along if you are interested.

St Bernadette, pray for us.

Dcn. Paul and Denise Roberts

Mary's Meals

A Mary's Meals 'Loose Change Collection' will take place throughout Lent. This will be starting on Ash Wednesday 5th March to Easter Sunday. Boxes to take home for the collection will be available to pick up at the back of all 4 churches. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Elaine and Nina, (Mary's Meal coordinators)

Knock Pilgrimage Meeting - 14th – 17th October 2025

There will be a meeting for all those who are coming to Our Lady's Shrine in Knock later this year. The meeting will be on **Wednesday 19th March** at **7.30pm** in **St. John Fisher Church**. At this meeting you will fill out a booking form and be asked to pay £200 deposit per person, either in cash or with a cheque payable to 'Northern Star' or via bank transfer. Also please bring either a passport or a recognised ID as this will be needed for travel.

The total cost for the pilgrimage is £550 for a sharing room and £640 for a single room. The itinerary will be discussed at the meeting and all questions (hopefully!) answered. Thank you.

Walsingham – just a note to say that as we are going to Knock this year, we will not be going on pilgrimage to Walsingham – we don't want to get too holy! Susan Warburton and Fr. Mark

Gift of Life for Zambia Trip to Oswaldtwistle Mill with a tour of the Ribble Valle

Shopping galore! Hight street bands, independent concessions, home, giftware, fashion department, garden St, four restaurants and more. An afternoon tour of the beautiful Ribble Valley is included with a knowledgeable guide of the area.

The date is Wednesday, 26th March leaving St. Basil's at 9.30.am and returning at approximately 6.30.pm. The cost is £24. To book put your money in an envelope marked with your name and telephone number and pass it to either Monica (424 8194) or Angela (424 8668). Or call them for further information. All profits to Gift of Life for Zambia.

Easter Lilies

There are envelopes and forms at the back of all churches should you wish to buy a Lily for Easter. Please return them to the Parish Office marked 'Easter Lilies'. Many thanks!

Pause For Thought - Our Lenten Journey 2025 - Week 1: Prayer

As a parishioner of St. Wilfrid's could we commit to praying for somebody different each day throughout the 40 days of Lent? Could we set aside some time to allow us to grow closer to God?

'Our prayer cannot be reduced to an hour on Sundays. It is important to have a daily relationship with God.

Pope Francis

Thank You

The St Wilfrid's Foundation of the UCM would like to thank you for all the support and generosity we received in 2024. It enabled us to raise £1,100 from the various events we held, which had since been distributed to various local charities.

Penny McCormack, UCM Treasurer

Pilgrims of Hope need priests for the journey!

If you feel God might be calling you to serve His people and the Church as a priest, contact the Archdiocesan Vocation Director to start a conversation. Email – vocations@rcaol.co.uk or call 0151 7257 2493

RCIA Rite of Sending and Rite of Election

This weekend Amelia, Faye, John, Lee and Neve who are to be baptised or received as full members of the Catholic Church at our Easter Vigil, will receive the Rite of Sending at 10.15am Mass before attending the Rite of Election at our Cathedral with Archbishop Malcolm. Over the coming months, please continue to hold them in your prayers as a sign of our whole community support.

Parish Choir

We will be practicing music for the Easter Services at the times listed below. As usual, if you have not sung before, or not sung for years, or haven't been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally, it doesn't matter, you would be most welcome.

Sadly though, at this time, all members of the choir must be over 18 due to safeguarding guidance. Our practices for Easter are on **Tuesday 25th March, Monday 31st March, Tuesday 8th April, all at 7pm in St. John Fisher Church.**

St. Bede Restoration Project Update

We take another step on our restoration journey, as the scaffolding around the tower begins to come down. We can see a number of changes, the most obvious being the new bottle green colour for the bell louvres, which our architect believes is the original colour. We can also see new lead-work on the tower roof, new dressed stone, the restored downspouts, new pointing and the repaired 'grotesques' (stone carvings of mythical beasts). The nave roof is also progressing nicely, with a great number of the new tiles in place already. Please keep the work of the project in your prayers.

Parish Heritage Collection

The Parish Heritage collection has been viewed by so many parishioners over the past month and has been very well received indeed. For those parishioners who cannot make it to St Michales church the file that was produced, explaining the exhibits, is now at the back of St Basil's church for the next few weeks.

Peter McCann

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	9th March	First Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Marie & Arthur Boden
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Mary Rimmer
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Anthony Goulding
Monday	10th March	Week 1 of Lent	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary	St. Basil	
12.00	Holy Mass		Margaret McDermott
19.00	Stations of the Cross	St. Basil	
Tuesday	11th March	Week 1 of Lent	
12.00	Funeral Service	St. John Fisher	Margaret Palin
19.00	Taizé Service	St. Basil	
Wednesday	12th March	Week 1 of Lent	
07.00	Early Riser Mass	St. John Fisher	Christopher Kelly
10.30	Funeral Service	St. John Fisher	Stephen Lea
13.30	Requiem Mass	St. Michael	Brian McVey
Thursday	13th March	Week 1 of Lent	
11.00	Requiem Mass	St. Basil	Ann Carney
12.00	Requiem Mass	St. John Fisher	Christine Owens
Friday	14th March	Week 1 of Lent	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Mgr. Charles Glass
13.00	Stations of the Cross	St. Basil's	
Saturday	15th March	Second Sunday of Lent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Mr Clarke
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	James Fay
Sunday	16th March	Second Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Brenda Weir
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Therese Ambrose
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Martin Wynne
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Edith & Matthew Fairhurst
St Basil:	Yainoulla Goodwin
St John Fisher	Pope Francis
St Michael:	The Geraghty Family

Rest in Peace

Brian Hobson, Maureen Robinson,
Colin Worsley, David Roberts,
Patricia Fallon, Margaret Clarke & Margaret Colford.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!