



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Advent Week One (C)

1st December 2024

Parish Office:

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

Parish Clergy:

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator) 0151 422 1772
Rev Fr Peter Ross 0151 422 1772
Rev Deacon Paul Rooney 0151 422 1772

T: 0151 422 1772

E: stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk

W: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

Psalm Response

'To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul'.

It is impossible to live a mature Christian life without frequent confession...

Friends, we all need to go to confession. It is as simple as that. While Advent is a season of 'joyful expectation', it is also season of preparation. We prepare to meet God by turning our backs on sin. Hence why, during advent, the priest and deacon wear violet vestments (the liturgical colour of penance). Now, no one in this parish is perfect. Yet, if we were to take the numbers coming to confession on first Saturday as an indication of the spiritual state of our parish, we would be led to believe that Widnes is a town of saints! How wrong we would be.

A wise friend once said to me, "in any church, the line for confession should be as long as the line for communion". We all have our own perception of the sacrament of God's pardon. Nevertheless, our perception does not change our absolute necessity to receive it.

We all need God's forgiveness, no matter how 'good' we are. Indeed, as Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) once said, "*Confession is the soul's bath. Even a clean and unoccupied room gathers dust: return after a week and you will see that it needs dusting again.*" I speak for myself in saying that I need a frequent 'dusting'. I am a sinner. Not one of us knows the time when the good Lord will call us from this life. While God is a merciful judge, he is no fool.

If we refuse his mercy in this life, how can we expect to receive it in the next? We need to respond to the call. If we have anxieties about going to confession, or if we feel indifferent towards it, we can take inspiration from the Lord's words in the Gospel reading today, "*Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*" (Luke 21:28). In confession, we will encounter a personal God, who yearns to hear our sorrows and graciously forgive.

So, folks, let us stand up and be brave in asking for forgiveness.

Fr Peter Ross

Advent and Christmas 2024

Advent Appeal 2024

Each year we have an Advent appeal for a worthy cause, this year the cause is very close to home; our own Catholic schools here in Widnes. I have often said that our schools are the pride of our parish, and they are more than that, they are missionary outposts, 'other' churches in our community and often the first point of contact for those who do not know what to do or where to go with a 'church' related matter.

As we all know, things change and the liturgical life and RE curriculum in our schools is constantly being reviewed and changed, as it should be, so that our children receive a wonderful experience of God and His kingdom, that is always fresh and new. This year, I suggest that we offer a gift to the children in our own parish and provide religious resources and experiences that they would not otherwise be able to afford from their own RE school budget.

Some ideas that the schools might choose...

Good News Bibles that are accessible and attractive for all the children.

A crucifix for the chapel at St. Peter and Paul or a moveable altar for Mass in the College.

The cost of buses so that our children can go on retreat.

Resources to make RE lessons come alive.

The headteachers with the RE coordinator would choose what they need in their particular school and report back to the parish community on what they have spent the appeal money on.

If you would like to be part of the Advent Appeal this year, please pass your donation on an envelope marked '**ADVENT APPEAL**' into the Parish Office or into the offertory bags at Mass. The money will then be split between the schools in the parish in the new year. So often we buy things at Christmas for people who don't need anything, perhaps this year we could give this gift of knowledge about Jesus to the smallest people in our parish community.

'What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man, I would do my part, but what can I give Him? Give Him my heart

Advent Events

Advent Carol Concert – on Sunday 15th December at 3pm we shall come together as a community of faith in St. Michael's Church to sing and listen as we prepare to welcome the Baby of Bethlehem into our hearts and homes this Christmas.

Advent Reconciliation Service – on Wednesday 18th December at 7pm at 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*

First Sunday of Advent - Hope

We stay awake, watch and wait, for we do not know the hour or the day of your arrival.

Come, Lord, bringer of hope.

Create in us a desire for a world transformed to reflect glory.

Come, Lord, bringer of hope.

Lead us in your ways, as together we make a change, to dispel the darkness of poverty.

Come, Lord, bringer of hope.

Did you know...

Did you know that the Gospel of St. Luke is 24 chapters long... if you read a chapter of the Gospel every day in December on Christmas Eve you would have read the whole of the Gospel? What an amazing commitment to make during the holy season of Advent!

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

The Gospel of St Luke

Many thanks to all who attended Fr Derek Lloyd's talk on Luke, the Christmas Gospel. What a wonderful night this was with so many laughs. It was lovely to see so many of you there, and the feedback was so inspirational. Many thanks to all who attended and supported our St Luke's talks.

St Wilfrid's Altar Servers Group – First Social

A little reminder that as per last week's newsletter, a celebratory Pizza Night at St Bede's Presbytery is on **Monday 2nd of December** at 6pm. This is for Altar Servers currently serving in the parish. All servers under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Please register your attendance and any special dietary needs with the Parish Office. **Fr. Peter and Rev. Paul.**

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.

Deanery Synodal Council

On Saturday 7th December the members of the DSC will meet in the parish of St. Wilfrid for their next gathering. The members of the DSC meet to take seriously the call of Pope Francis, to be a church that is truly synodal. Please pray for the DSC in this task – that they may listen and speak in the Holy Spirit. St. Wilfrid's DSC Reps are, Peter McCann, Pauline Rolt, Susan Warburton, Denise Roberts, Dcn. Paul, Fr. Peter and Fr. Mark.

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.

Parish Choir

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 next practice is on Tuesday 3rd December at 7pm in St John Fisher Church.

UCM Christmas Bingo

A big thank you to all who supported our bingo. £400 was raised to support our local Charities.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	1st December	1st Sunday of Advent (C)	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	George O'Grady
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Parishioners
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Jessica Duffy
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Marek Skutnik
Monday	2nd December	Ferial	
12.30	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Richard Anthony Topping
Tuesday	3rd December	Memorial of St Francis Xavier	
12noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher (School Mass)	Sr. Eileen
Wednesday	4th December	Ferial	
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Michael Alan Bennett
Thursday	5th December	Memorial of St John Almond	
12noon	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St Basil	
Friday	6th December	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Dorothy Ann Fox
Saturday	7th December	Memorial of St Ambrose	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Mary Murty & Gerard McCann
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Josie Doolan
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

Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to come to the school Masses!
Confession – Confession will be available at 10am on Saturday 14th December at St. John Fisher Church.

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Special Intention
St Basil	Ann Healy
St John Fisher	Frances Walsh
St Michael	Fr. Mark and Fr. Peter

Requiescant in pace

Ann Healy
Dennis Proctor
Patricia Courtnage
Robert Gussion
Patricia Martin

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!