



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



3rd Sunday of Advent (C)

Second Collection - SVP

15th December 2024

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Psalm Response

'Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved'.

Preparing at home...

In Advent, we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord by going to confession. However, we can also prepare by praying at home. I have provided a simple 'Advent Home Litany' below. I think the perfect time to recite this litany is before the main meal of the day. Use as you wish.

Advent Home Litany

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Response: Lord Jesus, come soon!

- 1) O Morning Star, splendor of eternal light and bright light of righteousness: come and enlighten our darkness and cast away all shadows of distress. **R.**
- 2) O King of the nations, our true ruler and gentle shepherd of our souls: end the conflict between peoples and restore the unity for which you longed. **R.**
- 3) O Emmanuel, God with us and in us: come and save us, Lord our God. **R.**

Saint Wilfrid, pray for us!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Have a lovely third week of preparation.

Fr Peter F. Ross.

Happy 30th Birthday Fr. Peter!

On Thursday 19th December we celebrate Fr. Peter's 30th birthday! Congratulations Father! Fr. Peter has now been with us for nearly 4 months, and he is a blessing to our whole community. He is always so ready to share his many gifts with our whole parish and serve us all as a priest and as a friend. Happy birthday Fr. Peter!

Such Talented Children!

It has been our joy to see so many school nativities and plays over the past week in our parish schools! The confidence of our children, the talent shown in their performances and the dedication and commitment of our school staff is just amazing! The Advent Masses have been so prayerful and joyous, our schools have opened to welcome members of the parish community for lunch – so much activity to prepare for His coming!

The Christian message is at the heart of all the activity within our schools and this is a good time to thank all the staff in our Catholic Schools for their skill, kindness and time in giving the children in their care a wonderful experience of God and His Church every day!

We are in awe of you all!

Fr. Mark & Fr. Peter

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!

Christmas Raffle – Last Chance!

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.

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 it 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, is 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

Lourdes 2025 expressions of interest

Our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes, in association with the annual Archdiocesan pilgrimage, will take place Thursday 24th July until Thursday 31st July 2025. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope', reflecting the Jubilee Year of 2025. It's also an important year for our Archdiocese as the case of John (Jack) Traynor has been declared a miracle.

If you wish to join us in Lourdes in 2025, please pass your name into the parish office.

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.'*

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.

Parish Heritage Display

On Saturday 14th January, we will be opening a display at St. Michael's Church of our parish heritage. This wonderful display has been created by our parish archivist, Peter McCann, and many hours of work have been spent in creating a reminder of our rich heritage.

Saturday 14th January at St. Michael's Church

10am – Mass

10.30am – Opening of the display and Tea and Coffee will be available

10.30am – Confessions

Please make a note of this date in your diary and come along to look, remember and give thanks for the Catholic Community in Widnes.

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

Third Sunday of Advent - JOY

In times of despair, we seek comfort in your presence. We wait in hope for you.

Come, Lord, source of joy.

Move us to be good news in our world and to stand alongside our sisters and brothers in need.

Come, Lord, source of joy.

Lead us in your ways as together we make a change so all people may rejoice and be glad.

Come, Lord, source of joy.

Parish Liturgy

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

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	
Monday	16th December		
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Basil	Pauline Courtnage
Tuesday	17th December		
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	John McDermott
14.00	Holy Mass	Trewan House, Nursing Home	Residents of Nursing Homes
Wednesday	18th December		
09.00	Exposition and Rosary		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Rona Kenrick
19.00	Advent Reconciliation Service	St Basil	
Thursday	19th December		
12noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	John Anthony Murphy
<i>(This is a School Mass, yet parishioners are all welcome to attend).</i>			
Friday	20th December		
11.30	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Robert Gussion
Saturday	21st December		
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Steven Bate
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
Sunday	22nd December	4th Sunday of Advent (C)	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ron & Stuart O'Tool
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Frank Smith
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	George Grace
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Elsie Riley

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Jim Norris
St Basil:	Margaret & Ron Ashcroft
St John Fisher:	Catherine & Edward Taylor
St Michael:	Joan Wilcox

Requiescant in pace

Jim Norris, Aidan Carney, John (Jack) O'Neill,
John Sullivan, David Michael Crompton,
Margaret Houghton, Brian Patrick McKeown,
Maureen Card & Margaret Flanagan

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!