

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)
Second Collection next week is for LEPR.

28th April 2024

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Responsorial Psalm

R. 'You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly'.

Walking in the light

Every time we walk into church and especially when we see the Paschal Candle burning, we are reminded and challenged that we are called to walk in the light of the resurrection every day. We can quickly forget Easter, the greatest feast, when we saw darkness give way to light, death being overcome by life, and God overcoming all evil and sin. We can forget and think that we are in control – what a folly!

Our faith is not a good luck charm, it does not take away difficulty or pain or loss. Our faith does not exempt us from fear and uncertainty. But it does give us a place to start looking for the answers...

Easter, for me reminds me that God is in control. He is the one who orders all things and keeps all things in being. We are called to cooperate with Him and play our part so that we can build the Kingdom of God in our corner of the world. This is our job!

So, let us remember that we are an Easter People, as we walk forward together. Let us remember that we do not walk in the dark; we walk with His light to guide us, comfort us and protect us.

We walk in the light of the Lord! Alleluia!

Fr. Mark

ST BEDE'S CHURCH
A LONG-AWAITED RESTORATION

The Parish Buildings and Finance Committee have the great pleasure of inviting you to a Presentation Evening, in which we will share our exciting plans to restore St Bede's Church, Widnes.

The fruit of thousands of hours of meticulous planning and prayer - informed at every stage by the expertise of nationally respected experts in ecclesiastical heritage and historic buildings maintenance - we have at long last secured the various permissions to proceed and the time has come to present this vision, not just to the parish, but the town at large.

This will take place on **Wednesday 8th May at St Basil's Parish Club, WA8 4SZ, at 19.30.**

Hot drinks will be available, and the bar will be open should you desire something a bit stronger! The presentation will last about an hour and a half, in which time we will hear from various stakeholders in the project, voices from the archdiocese and further afield and some of the dedicated parishioners that make up our committee. It is hoped that you will linger afterwards to meet with our speakers and enjoy some social time together.

Because of the importance of this restoration, not just to the Catholic community, but the broader town of Widnes, we would strongly encourage parishioners from across the parish and not just St Bede's Mass-goers to come along and share in this great event in the life of our parish.

Fr Thomas, on behalf of the Buildings and Finance Committee

Keep your eye on the newsletter!

As a parish, one of our priorities is the care of those who are bereaved; we get daily requests for Requiem Masses and Funeral Services in a particular church at a particular time, and we always try and accommodate the families wishes at what is a difficult time.

Another priority is to offer a weekday Mass in each of the four churches in the parish. We will attempt to ensure that this happens, but I ask you all to read the liturgy page in the newsletter every week and do not presume that the Mass is always at a certain time on a certain day in a particular church.

We need to be vigilant and read the newsletter. Thank you.

Holy Communion Prayers

Next Saturday we begin our Masses of Celebration for our First Holy Communion children. Nearly 180 children have been prepared for this day by our wonderful catechists supported by our Catholic Primary Schools.

Our First Holy Communion Day is such a milestone in our lives, so let us remember the children in our parish, that they may increase in their love for Jesus and His Church.

Requiescant in pace

Margaret Gilhooley, Paul Swindley,
Helen Hunsbury, Veronica Daniels
Garry Littler & Ann (Nancy) Carter

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Special Intention
St Michael	Thanksgiving
St John Fisher	Vocation to Priesthood
St Basil	Irene Heron

Music Ministry Social Gathering

There will be a social gathering **at 7.30pm on Tuesday 30th April** at St John Fisher Parish Hall for **EVERYONE** involved in making music in our parish.

There will be some refreshments and some food. This is not a meeting, just a way to come together with all other music makers, and who knows, we might have a song or two! Please come!

Parish Choir

The next gatherings of the Parish Choir will be on Tuesday 14th May, Tuesday 4th June and Monday 8th July, all at 7pm in St. Bede's Church.

As usual, everyone is very welcome, even if you have not sung before, or been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally.

All are welcome.

Parish Trip to St Mary's Seminary, Oscott

Just a few places remaining

'A seminary is more than a building; it is a community of formation.'

We have been offered a wonderful opportunity, to go to St Mary's Seminary, Oscott, for a guided tour, an opportunity to celebrate Evening Prayer with the community and meet the seminarians who are training for mission in our land. We have been invited to go on **Sunday 5th May**, the timetable will be as follows.

1pm	Leave St Bede's Church on a coach to travel to the Midlands
3pm	Arrive at the Seminary
3.30pm	Guided tour of the College
4.30pm	Afternoon Tea
5.30pm	Evening Prayer and a look around the gift shop
6.10pm	Depart the Seminary
8pm	Arrive home

Cost per person - £20 (this includes a donation to the seminarians' charity)

St Mary's College has existed as a formation community for 228 years. It has been in its present location for the last 184 of those years. What a wonderful afternoon and evening it will be!

Places are limited, so if you would like to come on this trip, please pass your name, telephone and money into the Parish Office marked **'OSCOTT'** as soon as possible.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	28th April	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Kim Enright (successful Op)
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Jean McCormick (Sick)
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Peter Glynn (LD)
16.00	Holy Mass	Holy Family	Parishioners John & Bridget Martin (Rem)
Monday	29th April	Feast of St Catherine of Siena	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Madge Houghton (LD)
Tuesday	30th April	Weekday of Easter	
12 noon	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Harry Gregory
Wednesday	1st May	Weekday of Easter	
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Vladimir Potopeyev (LD)
Thursday	2nd May	Memorial of St Athanasius	
NO MASS		St Michael	
Friday	3rd May	Feast Day of Saints Philip & James	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Patricia Evans (LD)
Saturday	4th May	Feast Day of English Martyrs	
10.00	First Holy Communion Mass	St Bede	Children from St Bede's School
10.00	First Holy Communion Mass	St Michael	Children from OLPS School
10.00	First Holy Communion Mass	St Basil	Children from St Basil's School
12 noon	First Holy Communion Mass	St Michael	Children from St Michael's School
12 noon	First Holy Communion Mass	St Bede	Children from St Bede's School
14.00	First Holy Communion Mass	St Bede	Children from St Bede's School
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Parishioners
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Joyce & Kevin McKeown (60 th Wed Ann)
Sunday	5th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Watt (B'day Rem)
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	The Radcliffe Family
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Francis (Frank) Conroy (10 th Ann)
16.00	Holy Mass	Holy Family	Parishioners & Thomas Rolt

