

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) Second collection SVP

11th February 2024

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Responsorial Psalm

R. You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

To continue from last week... it is very important to remember that criticism of the Israeli Government's politics is not the same as anti-semitism, which is to be totally condemned.

Political Zionism appeared towards the end of the nineteenth century, under the leadership of Theodor Herzl. Its first congress was called in 1897 in Basel. A nationalist movement, its aim was the establishment of a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine. At this time, Jewish communities were scattered across Europe, mainly in big cities, and by no means always welcome. Zionism encouraged migration to Palestine.

The first great power encouragement of the Zionist movement came from Britain in 1917 with the Balfour Declaration, a short letter from the Foreign Secretary to Lord Rothschild...

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine,".

The statistics I can find say that at that time Palestinian Arabs were 93% of the population and Jewish people 7%. And Palestine at the time came under Turkey, not Britain.

After WW1, The League of Nations gave Britain the mandate to administer Palestine. During this period, the Zionists continued their pressure towards a Jewish homeland, immigration continued, and Arab grievances increased. Towards the end of the WW2, dreadful violence broke out.

In 1947, Britain pulled out and left it to the new United Nations, which proposed the two state solution. Israel self-declared itself a state, but the Palestinian state has never come into being. Over the following years, through a series of wars, Israel has come to have territorial control of the whole of Palestine and, with its illegal settlements, to actually take over huge tracts of the country. At the same time, as a result of Israeli pressure, military and other, there are about six million Palestinian refugees, 2.4 million of them in Jordan, huge numbers in Gaza and in the West Bank. Chile has half a million.

To be concluded, please God, next week.

Bishop John

Lourdes 2024

If you would like to join the Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year, there will be a meeting on **Thursday 22nd February** at 7.30pm in St. Bede's Church. Come along if you would like to find out more!

19th – 26th July 2024

Hotel – Padoue

7 nights' accommodation, full board, direct flights from Liverpool, John Lennon Airport, to Tarbes (Lourdes) airport.

St. Wilfrid's Group Leaders this year: Deacon Paul Rooney, Ged Glover and Denise Roberts.
Cost £999 per person based on two people sharing, £250 single room supplement.

Gift of Life for Zambia Trip to Frodsham Market with a Fish and Chip Meal

Our first outing this year is a morning visit **Thursday, March 21st** to Frodsham Market followed by lunch at the White Lion, a delightful country pub, in Alvanley. The market is street lined through Frodsham, small but interesting, and with many locally sourced goods and plants. There are plenty of individual shops and tea shops.

Lunch is fish and chips (a very generous small portion) plus a tea or coffee.

The coach leaves St. Basil and All Saints Church at 9.30am and returns home at approximately 3.30pm. The cost is £24. Money to be placed in an envelope with your name, address and telephone number, please. Further details from Angela (424 8668) or Monica (424 8194).

Every time that you join us on our coach journeys you are helping to fund Gift of Life for Zambia, our Joint Church project. So, thanks to your kindness we have just sent £4,000 to Sister Mary to assist our wider community and orphans at St. Francis Home Care.

We cannot thank you enough for your loyalty, support, and generosity over the past 24 years.

Parish Choir

We will be preparing for the Easter Services at our next gatherings which will be on:

**Monday 26th February,
Tuesday 5th March & Monday 18th March
All at 7pm, St. Bede's.**

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!

Archdiocese of Liverpool Environment & Sustainability Conference 9th March 2024, Wigan.

This partnership event between Justice and Peace Commission and Liverpool Archdiocese will bring together parishioners and a space to reflect on climate issues and how our Catholic faith calls us to action.

For further details please see link below.

www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/pastoraldevelopment/environment

Requiescant in pace

Maureen Knight, Marie Fitzpatrick,
Eileen Doan, Marion Byrne,
Peter Glynn, Thomas Rolt
& John Joseph O'Brien

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	Sick and Housebound
St John Fisher	Special Intention
St Basil	Peace in the Holy Land

Lenten Scripture Course

Our Scripture group meets for the first time on Ash Wednesday in St. Bede's Presbytery, after the 12noon Mass All are welcome!

Wed 14th Feb – The Baptism of Jesus

Wed 21st Feb – The Transfiguration

Wed 28th Feb – Jesus purifies the temple

Wed 6th March – 'not a judge but a Saviour'

Wed 13th March – 'My Father will honour anyone who serves me'

Wed 20th March – Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Come along and share what the Scriptures mean to you, in your daily life!

Belle Vale Passion Play

There is an amazing opportunity for anyone who wishes to get involved in the Belle Vale Passion Play. This community project will bring the Easter Story to the local community and build friendships and nurture talents and skills. The Passion Play will take place on Easter Saturday, 30th March at 12noon.

Please visit the website: www.bellevalepassion.co.uk for more information or see the poster at the back of Church.

Sacrament of Confirmation 2024

A reminder that we now invite all our young people of Year 8 age upwards who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the summer to book onto the diocesan system at:

www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk before 15 March 2024.

We will be in touch, later in the spring to share the arrangements as we prepare for this joyous day in the life of our parish.

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of Thy love.
Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth!*

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	11th February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Paddy Ruth (LD)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	John McGillicuddy (LD)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Terry (Sam) Ellis (LD)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Katrina Bonnon (LD)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Natividad (Naty) Nituum
Monday	12th February	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Joe Jones (1 st Ann)
12.30	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Colin Parry
Tuesday	13th February	Ferial	
10.30	Funeral Service	St Basil	Anita C'ailceta
12 Noon	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Hilda Mary Ogburn
Wednesday	14th February	Ash Wednesday	
07.00	Holy Mass	St Basil	The Parry Family
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Julia King (B'day Rem)
12 Noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Hughie Brennan (B'day Rem)
19.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Richard Beesley (LD)
Thursday	15th February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	
12 Noon	Funeral Service	St Basil	Violet Ann Williams
Friday	16th February	Friday after Ash Wednesday	
NO MASS			
Saturday	17th February	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	
NO MORNING MASS OR CONFESSIONS			
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Paul Dennet (8 th Ann)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	Parishioners
Sunday	18th February	First Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Special Intention
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Sister Kibre D.C (LD)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	George & Leah Sadler
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Anne Clarke (11 th Ann)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Elizabeth Doris Syze & George Roberts