

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



30th November 2025

First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Parish Office:
St Bede's Presbytery
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Parish Clergy:

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Psalm Response

'Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD'

Alleluia Verse

'Show us O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation'

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

May we burn brightly!

As we enter the season of Advent, we step into a time of quiet expectation, hope, and renewal. Advent is not simply the countdown to Christmas; it is an invitation to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming—both His birth in Bethlehem and His promised return in glory. The Church calls us to watchfulness, to awaken from spiritual sleep, and to ready ourselves for the presence of God breaking into our lives.

With this invitation comes a responsibility. Advent is not a private journey; it is a message we are entrusted to share. In a world often distracted by noise, rushing, and commercialism, we are called to witness to the *real* meaning of this season: hope that is steadfast, peace that endures, love that transforms, and joy that flows from knowing Emmanuel—God with us. Our words, our kindness, our choices, and our faith can become gentle signs pointing others toward Christ. When we live Advent intentionally, we become bearers of light in places shadowed by worry, doubt, or indifference.

May our parish be a bright star during this sacred season—shining with welcome, compassion, and faith. Like the star that once led the Magi to the newborn King, may we lead others to discover or rediscover Christ's presence. And as we prepare room in our own hearts, may we help guide those around us to the One who is the true Light of the world.

Come, Lord Jesus. Renew our hearts. Make us ready for Your coming.

Fr. Mark

Advent Appeal – Trinity Safe Space

Instead of buying something for a friend or family member for Christmas that they do not need, why not buy an item for someone that really does?

Trinity Safe Space charity continues to support more people new to us who need all sorts of things. Thank you very much for donating to us in the past.

We currently need the following: these items must be new, as they are being given as gifts this Christmas.

Men - boxer shorts small, medium and large; men's warm socks - sizes from 7 – 11, warm beanie hats, scarves and gloves, men's small/medium joggers, jeans, waterproof small and medium warm jackets, men's trainer's sizes 7 to 10.

Women – warm hats and scarves and gloves (please remember, we have far more men than women), sanitary pads (not tampons), umbrellas and a small number of women's classic style briefs in small, medium and large.

General - washing up liquid, washing powder or capsules, warm duvets for single beds, backpacks. Please bring them to church or the parish office from where they will be collected.

Thank you very much, for your kindness,

Pauline Ruth. Chair of Trustees

Flower Demonstration

Festive treats are in store at a flower demonstration at **7.30pm on Wednesday, 10th December** at Farnworth Methodist Church Hall on Derby Road. Acclaimed floral artist Debbie Davies presents 'Charismata' alongside a bakery and gift stall. Visitors can pay on the door.

Barbara Jordan

St. Wilfrid's Parish Calendar 2026

Stop the Press! We have purchased some 2026 calendars of our wonderful parish, each month there are different photographs of our churches, inside and out. They are just £5 each and can be purchased at the back of church. We did not get lots this year as we were unsure how many people would like one, so be quick and you will not be disappointed! All proceeds from the sale of the calendars will go to the upkeep of all our churches. What a lovely stocking filler it would be!

Advent Candle

Today we light the first candle on our Advent wreath. **The Prophecy Candle (Hope)** The first candle symbolizes hope, God's promise of a Saviour and the anticipation of Christ's coming. It reminds us to stay expectant and trust that light will overcome darkness. As we look at the Advent candle growing in strength as each candle is lit, let us pray that our faith is strengthened and we know more and more, that Jesus, Emmanuel, our God, is with us!

Advent Raffle

Raffle tickets are available for you take home and sell them to your friends and family! The raffle will be drawn **on 21st December** in time for Christmas! Fantastic prizes and hampers!

Advent 2025

Sunday 30th November – ‘I am Mark’

6pm – St. Basil’s Church

This is a wonderful opportunity that has been offered to us, it is a one man ‘show’ of the Gospel of St. Mark. It will lead us into the Scriptures and so into the season of Advent. It is a free event, if you didn’t manage to collect a ticket last weekend, then please just come along! This performance was given last year in the Warrington part of the deanery, and I am told that it was amazing!

Monday 1st December – Advent Holy Hour – Annunciation

7pm – St. Bede

Fr. Mark will lead us in a Holy Hour before Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, come and spend some time with Jesus that we might be truly prepared for His coming.

Wednesday 3rd December - Taizé Prayer, ‘Waiting, the Night is Far Spent’,

7pm - St. John Fisher Church

Come and spend time relaxing in prayer, with music to guide your heart to Jesus.

The Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir Presents

A Celebration of Christmas – Saturday 13 December

A Celebration of Christmas returns this year on **Saturday 13 December** with a night of musical cheer, guaranteed to get you into the festive spirit. Join the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and some very special guests for what promises to be a magical event for all the family.

Sing along to classic carols, enjoy traditional readings and celebrate Christmas in the glorious surroundings of the Metropolitan Cathedral. Tickets: £10 each/ £18 family, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral

Advent Prayer

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours.

Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord
who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father’s joy.

I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord.

Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there,
heartly gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail!

Amen.

St. Peter and Paul, RC High School

Invite all parishioners to their Community Advent and Carol Service on **Wednesday 3rd December** at 6pm in the School Hall. Come and join the young people from our Parish Catholic High School as they sing and reflect upon the wonderful season of Advent!

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	30th November	First Sunday of Advent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Joe Houghton
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Tex Mercer
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	David Lyn Syers
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
Monday	1st December	Week 1 of Advent	
09.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Morning Pryer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Cliff Gee
19.00	Advent Holy Hour	St Bede (Please note change of venue)	
Tuesday	2nd December	Week 1 of Advent	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St John Fisher	John Barrow
11.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Fr Joe Bibby
Wednesday	3rd December	Memorial of St Francis Xavier	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Basil	Patricia Wright
11.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Kevin Ferguson
19.00	Taize Prayer	St John Fisher	
Thursday	4th December	Week 1 of Advent	
10.00	Funeral Service	St John Fisher	Paul Geaney
10.30	Advent Mass	St Michael School	Bill Ryder
14.00	Advent Mass	St Bede	Nancy Prendergast
Friday	5th December	Memorial of John Almond	
09.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Morning Pryer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Les Connolly
Saturday	6th December		
10.00	Holy Mass & Confessions	St Bede	John & Francis Fearon
		Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Nick, Nancy & Liam Carter
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Lois Davies
Sunday	7th December	Second Sunday of Advent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mass Association Members
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Martin Peter Hassett
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Caroline Edwards
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Bebbington

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede: Special Intention

St Basil: Joan Moran

St John Fisher: Anne Grier

St Michael: Jean McCormack

Rest in Peace

Elizabeth Beattie, John Glover,

Patrick Kirwan, Syd Rubin,

Brian Cordy & Paul Waters

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!