

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

13th December 2020

Third Sunday in Advent (B)

**“Listen!
I am
standing at
the door
knocking.”**

Rev 3:20



Fr Tom Neylon (PP)	0151 424 2738
Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 4021
Fr Mark Moran	0151 513 0024
Fr Bill Murphy	0151 495 1854
Fr Carl Mugan (PP)	0151 424 6641

St Wilfrid's Parish Office
St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
Widnes, WA8 6EL

**The Parish Office is now
open for telephone enquiries**

0151 422 1772

Please email:

stwilfridswidnes@rcaolp.co.uk

**NEW PARISH WEBSITE ADDRESS:
stwilfridswidnes.uk**

Please keep looking at our website for up
to date news.

Office Manager
Heather Harrison

Parish Administrators
Susan Warburton
Shelagh Hindley

Pastoral Associate
Jessy Mottram-Noé

**Follow us on Facebook:
Parish of St Wilfrid Widnes**



<https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridswidnes/>

Reflection – 3rd Sunday Advent

This week we witnessed the first people in the country to be vaccinated against the coronavirus. A promise of an opportunity to start the long road to having some normality back into our lives, a path in the darkness that has surrounded us for almost a year. The dedication of the scientists and NHS staff has been nothing short of miraculous during these difficult times, and their support and wisdom has eventually brought some hope in these days.

The coming of Christmas gives us a chance to reflect upon the year past, to take time to reassess our lives, just as John the Baptist was asking of those early believers. He asked them to ‘repent’ or in other words, to change direction. It seems that we have changed direction so often recently, with different rules and regulations, but John’s message is more personal; to think about how we ourselves can draw closer to the Lord.

Continued...

We can reflect upon this as we hear the Gospel this weekend. We see the character of John the Baptist preparing the way in very challenging times in first century Palestine. His message was simple, he had come to acclaim the one who would bring hope and joy into a dark world. So, with the promise of brighter times ahead we should celebrate lighting another candle on our Advent wreath. As we approach the Christmas season, and understand that no matter how dark or difficult times can be, we have been promised love, hope and mercy, through the joy of the manger and birth of a baby.



Fr Carl

CAFOD Advent Prayer and Reflection

Are you looking for a chance to enjoy some quiet time... some prayer and reflection...in your own home? (Read below to find out all the details)

Every Sunday - from 29 November to 6 January, 6pm-6:30pm

[CAFOD Advent Prayer - A Journey to The Manger](#)

Join us for some simple and peaceful prayer and reflection as we share our journey of Advent together. We will gather around a candle and be gently led in a time of prayer. No need for a computer camera or microphone or worrying about what to say. Just register then click the link on Sundays through Advent and on Epiphany, the 6th of January. The prayer will start at 6pm and run for less than half an hour. All are welcome to join us on this journey.

[Register](#) to the series

Readers for Christmas Masses

Calling all readers... if you are attending one of the Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas day and would like to read at the service please can you contact the office to volunteer?

Please either e-mail, telephone or drop a note through the presbytery door and tell us your name and which Mass you would like to read at.

You will still need a ticket for the service obtained in the usual way.

Thank you

How to access Mass

St Wilfrid's Widnes:

YouTube videos are being prepared so that you can participate in Mass.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC52-K27EaYwySzRmeP3f3eA>



Mass will be available each Sunday morning. Fr Tom will be celebrating the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

Across the Archdiocese:

New resources now available include:

- [Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent](#) (also available as an audio download).
- [Readings for next few Sundays.](#)
- [Week 14 in the series of 'Armchair Retreats' with Fr Denis Blackledge SJ.](#)
- [Key characters of Advent: Mary.](#)

All can be accessed/downloaded at <https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/> or through <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/> by clicking on 'Prayer and Other Resources'.

The O Antiphons

As we look for creative ways of visibly expressing our Christianity this Advent, we are providing an image of the O Antiphons from 17 – 23 December, one each day, which could be displayed on windows or as decorations on a tree.

Each O Antiphon image has the scripture verse with in and the reverse can be used for prayer intentions. There are two versions: one can be coloured/decorated and the other is ready coloured, both of which can be printed and cut out.

They are on the [Liverpool South Pastoral Area Website](#) and an O Antiphon prayer/graphic will be posted each day from 17 – 23 December which is available for all to share on Facebook pages/social media/websites.

We pray for those who are sick

Fr Malcolm Princez

Michael McKown

Emma Pender

If you know of someone who is sick & would appreciate their name being placed on the list, please contact the Parish Office on 422 1772. The name of the sick person will appear for 6 weeks, this can be renewed by contacting the Parish Office. ***We can only place names in the Newsletter with the written consent of the sick person.***

A SINCERE THANK-YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest thanks for the incredible generosity that you have shown me through the Testimonial Collection that I have received, as well as cards, gifts, and good wishes. Your kindness has left me speechless - and as you know, that doesn't happen very often! The money that I received will be put to very good use in my pastoral work in the parish in Peru.

I plan to come back to the UK each year for a holiday and will make sure that I come to Widnes so that I can let you know how I'm getting on.

With my sincerest thanks, and be assured of my prayers always,

Fr Joe



The booklets are available at the back of all our churches this weekend.

If you would like to support Cafod and give a different gift this year please pick up a booklet or go online to cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

NUGENT TRUST

Please note that we are unable to accept donations for Nugent until further notice due to storage and collection issues.

Thank you for your support.

Catholic Pictorial

The latest edition is available digitally at:

<https://bit.ly/36fUh2V>

<http://www.catholicpic.co.uk/> updated daily with news from around the Archdiocese.

Wednesday Word

This could be a very helpful way of accessing the Sunday readings.

<http://wednesdayword.org/parish/index.htm>

CHURCH IS NOW OPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

Please note that the churches will be open half an hour before Mass starts. This is to allow for controlled and staggered arrival times and to allow us to record your names for contact tracing. Please consider this when making your plans and allow enough time.

CHURCH CAPACITY

Due to social distancing requirements, the maximum number of people allowed in each of our churches is greatly reduced. Once the maximum number has been reached, anyone else who arrives will not be able to enter the building. Our maximum capacities are as follows:

St Michael's	110	St Bede's	68
St John Fisher's	50	St Basil's	60

Please remember that there is currently no obligation to attend Mass. Also, you may consider attending Mass only **one day a week** to make space for others.

If you have any Covid 19 symptoms (i.e. a new, continuous cough) you must not attend church. Also, if you have tested positive for Covid 19 you must not attend church until you have recovered. This is for the safety of others.

We **MUST** wear face-coverings as we enter church and throughout Mass.

- Please use the hand sanitisers provided as you enter and leave church.
- If you have a device or missal with text for Mass you may bring this with you.
- A steward will direct you to a seat.
- Holy Communion will be given out at the end of Mass.
 - A steward will invite each row forward in a pre-determined order.
Please wait to be invited before leaving your bench.
 - Take your face covering down when the person in front of you is receiving.
 - Receive the host in your hand, step to the side, consume the host and then put your face covering back on.
 - Make your way slowly and reverently out of church, using the one-way system.

We may have to stop offering public worship at very short notice following Archdiocesan and Government advice.

Please note that the doors have to remain open during Mass to ensure adequate ventilation. This means it may be colder than we would like. Please wear a coat.



Medaille Trust Christmas Gifts



St. Wilfrid's continuing to work in solidarity with Medaille Trust...

Over these past few years our parish has forged strong links with Medaille Trust, who as we know support people who are victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. During Advent we usually have our Christmas Tree campaign which provides an opportunity, for those of us who feel able, to donate a wrapped-up Christmas gift for one of Medaille's clients by taking a tag from the Christmas tree and putting the tag on our gift before we bring it back to put under the tree.

This year we need to do things a bit differently to keep everybody safe...

If you would like/feel able to buy a gift for the Medaille clients simply look at the list below, select a gift and wrap it up, **ensure that you attach a label stating what the gift is**, then bring the gift to any of our four churches and place it in the box provided.

(All gifts need to be received by **Wednesday December 16th** to ensure safe transfer of goods in time for Christmas)

- + Sweets/chocolate
- + Snacks, such as popcorn/Pringles etc
- + Aroma therapy diffuser
- + Aroma therapy oils
- + Colouring books for adults + pencils or pens (The Works - seem to have best prices)
- + Wooden arts and crafts items (The Works seems' to be best place to get them from)
- + Paint and any other items for arts and crafts
- + Men's socks, sizes 6-8.5 or 9-12
- + Underwear Small/Medium/Large
- + Men's hats
- + Gloves medium/large
- + Men's Scarves
- + Men's toiletries gift set
- + Men's Slippers - medium/large
- + These are just suggestions....

Magda, (Service Manager for Medaille project), said ***'We will be very grateful for any presents gifted to us... God Bless you all'***

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions have been allocated up to December. Any new Masses will be allocated as there is space in the individual weeks.

The following Masses will be said by the priests this week:

Parishioner of the Parish

Gail McDowell (Latey dead)

Maurzen Galligan

John McLoughlin (Latey dead)

Lois Davigs

Flo Reid

Michelle Spencer (Adams) 40th B'day. remb.

James Fay

William (Billy) Norris 1st Ann.

Stephen Fennzy

Patricia Ann Sinnott

Brian Holding LD

Residents of all our care homes

Angela Milloy B'day. remb.

Moira Gallagher

Charlie Stevens

Dennis Behan

Helen Holdsworth

We pray for those who have died

Gail McDowell,

John McLoughlin,

Josephine Cleary,

James Bebbington

Ann-Marie Watts



TICKETS for MASS on CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, we have been thinking about the best way to ensure that our churches are safe places so that Mass can be celebrated in them.

So, if you would like to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day you will **NEED A TICKET** (*think Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory!*) The tickets will be available **THIS WEEKEND** at the Church you would like to attend over Christmas. If you intend to come to *St Bede's* tickets can be collected from *St Bede's* Presbytery on Saturday 12th December from 11am – 12:30 pm and Sunday 13th December from 2pm – 2:30pm.

PLEASE...

1. Remember, one ticket is needed for each person who is coming to the Mass, there are no family tickets or plus 1's!
2. Only take a ticket if you are sure you will be attending, do not take one for someone who 'might' come. To accommodate as many people as possible please attend **either** on Christmas Eve **or** Christmas Day.
3. If you take a ticket and then realise you do not need one then please return it ASAP.
4. On the ticket there is a space for your contact details, please fill them in before coming to Church, this will speed up the 'Track and Trace' process.
5. Tell your family and friends not to just turn up to Mass without a ticket as they will be unable to come in.
6. If you forget your ticket you will be denied entry until the beginning of Mass and **IF** there are spaces you will be allowed in.

A massive thank you to the stewards who have volunteered and enabled us to offer so many Masses over these few days. We know that this way of organising things feels strange, but we are doing the best we can in very difficult circumstances.

Christmas Eve 24 th December	8pm	St Basil's
	8pm	St Bede's
	8pm	St John Fisher
	8pm	St Michael's
Christmas Day 25 th December	8:30am	St Basil's
	9am	St Bede's
	10am	St John Fisher
	10:30am	St Michael's
	11:15am	St Bede's

THIS WEEKEND		THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)	
Saturday 12 th December	11-12 noon	St Bede's	Confession
	5:00pm	St Michael's	Mass
Sunday 13 th December GAUDETE SUNDAY	9:00am	St Michael's	Mass
	10:00am	St John Fisher	Mass
	11:00am	St Michael's	Mass
	4:30pm	St Basil's	Mass

WEEKDAYS		DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 3	
Monday 14 th December	9:15am	St Michael's	Mass
Tuesday 15 th December	11:30am	St Bede's	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	12 noon	St Bede's	Mass
Wednesday 16 th December	7:00pm	St Michael's	Novena Mass
Thursday 17 th December	11:30am	St Bede's	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	12 noon	St Bede's	Mass
Friday 18 th December	9:15am	St Michael's	Mass

NEXT WEEKEND		FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)	
Saturday 19 th December	<u>11am-1pm</u>	St Bede's	<u>Extended Confession</u>
	5:00pm	St Michael's	Mass
Sunday 20 th December	9:00am	St Michael's	Mass
	10:00am	St John Fisher	Mass
	11:00am	St Michael's	Mass
	4:30pm	St Basil's	Mass

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool is committed to keeping your personal data secure. Please see our Privacy Notice on our website at liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacy-notice

Funerals

Please remember in your prayers,

May Randles, Catherine Pierez, Elizabeth Glennon,

Michelle Davigs, Christopher George Henry

whose funeral took place last week.

