

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes



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

Archdiocese of
Liverpool
Registered Charity No 1199714

11th January 2026

The Feast of the Baptism of The Lord (Year A)

Parish Office:
St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
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Parish Clergy:

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Psalm Response

'The Lord will bless his people with peace'

Alleluia Verse

'The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:
"This is my beloved Son; listen to him".

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

Times and Tides

'Time and tide wait for no man' is a well-known saying, and indeed it is true. Nature's cycle is never ending with predictable patterns and reoccurrences. These things come to mind at this time of year as the daylight hours increase with each passing day.

As human beings, we create patterns and cycles of our own to help us to mark and understand the passage of time and rhythm of the year. We name times of year - Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. The Church does this too in the form of the Liturgical Year.

The cycle in our church year is Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time (Time after the Epiphany), Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time (Time after Pentecost). Each of these has its own mood, theological emphasis and type of prayer. These are reflected in the changing colours of the vestments for clergy.

Last weekend we celebrated the Epiphany of the Lord. This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It is the final day of 'Christmastide'. From Monday the colour of the vestments change from white to green marking a change into Ordinary Time (Time after the Epiphany). There is nothing 'ordinary' and mundane about Ordinary Time. It is a time of order and structured rhythm to reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus. Green as its colour symbolizes life, growth and hope.

Whatever the time of year or liturgical season, the day of primary importance is the Lord's Day, Sunday. Every Sunday is special as it marks the resurrection of Jesus. In the demands of modern life and as far as possible, try not to make Sunday an extension of the working week. You are encouraged to try and keep the Lord's Day as a day of prayerful reflection, rest, renewal and a time for family and friends.

Deacon Paul

Parish Visitation – Archbishop John Sherrington

Next weekend, and on the **1st February**, we will welcome + John Sherrington to our parish as part of the Widnes and Warrington Deanery Visitation. The Archbishop has allotted five weekends, to our area. The dates for Widnes and Cronton Family of Parishes are.

Saturday 17 th January	Vigil Mass	St. Basil	4.30pm
Saturday 17 th January	Vigil Mass	St. John Fisher	6pm
Sunday 18 th January	Holy Mass	Holy Family	9am*
Sunday 18 th January	Holy Mass	St. Michael	10.45am*
(* please note the change of time)			
Sunday 1 st February	Holy Mass	St. Bede	9am
Sunday 1 st February	Holy Mass	St. Bede	11.30am

We look forward to welcoming the Archbishop to our parish and we hope he enjoys his time with us!

Parish Development Strategy

As we step into 2026, our Archdiocese is blessed with exciting opportunities to reflect Christ's presence and respond with hope to the challenges of our modern world here in Liverpool Archdiocese. These times invite us to embrace renewed faith, vibrant mission, creative action, and deep trust in God's guidance.

Today marks the beginning of an inspiring Archdiocesan-wide discernment process **within our deanery**—centered on mission and shared responsibility—where every voice and every prayer truly matters. This journey builds on the grace of our Synod 2020 and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, calling us forward together. Please take a look at the leaflet in your newsletter, to learn more and know that we will keep you regularly updated on how you, your parish, and our whole community can be actively involved.

Christian Unity Service

To mark Christian Unity Week 2026, we will celebrate a special liturgy together on **Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 19:00** at St. Bede's church. The ministers and congregations of the other Christian communities in Widnes have been invited to join us. There will be refreshments served afterwards. Pope Leo XIV has called upon all Christians to work together for unity, indeed as he said in November of last year "*the restoration of unity among Christians does not make us poorer; on the contrary, it enriches us.*" Come along and implore the Father for the gift of unity, a gift for which the Son prayed!

Sub Tuum Præsidium Prayer

At Mass on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, I spoke about the oldest Christian prayer, the 'sub tuum præsidium', and commended it to you all. I was introduced to this prayer at Oscott when Pope Francis asked us all to use it in October 2018. The prayer is evidence of Marian devotion in the early Church and supports the notion that veneration of Mary, as the Mother of God, is an essential and ancient component of Christianity. Here it is in English:

'We fly to thy protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.'

Fr Peter

Could you serve the Church and our Parish as a Foundation Governor in one of our Schools?

What are foundation governors?

Foundation Governors are appointed in the name of the Archbishop and form the majority of the governing body of a Catholic school. They have a legal duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school and to ensure that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed.

Service as a foundation governor in a Catholic school is one of the most significant and important ways members of the Catholic Faith community can support the Church's divine mission of helping all to arrive at the fullness of Christian life.

There are few specific requirements. A foundation governor must:

- Be a Catholic who attends Sunday Mass regularly and gives true witness to the teachings of the Church
- Be prepared to work with discretion as a member of the full governing body and attend training events to help build up a body of knowledge and expertise
- Bring a wider skill set to enhance the wider Governing Body in undertaking its collective duties to lead the school and meet the contemporary requirements of the Department for Education and Ofsted.

We are in need of Foundation Governors across all our parish schools; do you have skills that you could bring to the Governing Body of the school. If you want to know more, please contact Fr. Mark either in person or e mail him on m.moran@rcaol.org.uk More information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website.

Widnes Food Bank

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who supported us over the festive period. We are lucky to have a supportive and generous community around us. Please would you continue your support to help those in need in our community. If you are able to donate food to us our current most needed items are: Soup, Long Life Milk, Long Life Juice, Jam, Tinned Spaghetti and Toiletries. Thank You!

Parish Choir

If you have not sung before, or not sung for years, or haven't been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally, it doesn't matter, you would be most welcome. Sadly though, at this time, all members of the choir must be over 18 due to safeguarding guidance. Our next practice is on **Monday 26th January, 7pm in St. Bede's Church.**

Raffle Prizes

Congratulations to all our winners. Thank you so much to all who supported the raffle. We have just four prizes awaiting collection at the Parish Office. The winning ticket still awaiting collection are, 0297, 1795, 2096 and 2129. Please check your ticket, it could be you4!

Are you interested in becoming a deacon? - Online Event

Join us for an online event organised by the Archdiocese of Liverpool for men discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate. The event will be held on **Wednesday 14 January from 7pm to 8:30pm**, and you can sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/are-you-interested-in-becoming-a-deacon-tickets-1979860549199>.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	11th January	The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede John O'Brien and Julie
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael Parishioners
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede Marjorie Higginson
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede S.V.P.
Monday	12th January	Week 1 in Ordinary Time
12noon	Funeral Service	St Michael Veronica Upton
Tuesday	13th January	Week 1 in Ordinary Time
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Basil Jean Mannion
Wednesday	14th January	Memorial of St Kentigern
12noon	Service of the Word With Holy Communion	St Bede
Thursday	15th January	Week 1 in Ordinary Time
No Mass or Service Today		
Friday	16th January	Week 1 in Ordinary Time
09.30	Funeral Service	St Bede Marie Bernadette Cairnes
Saturday	17th January	Vigil of Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil Patrick Duffy & Peter Tennant
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher Parishioners & Dorothy Fox
Sunday	18th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede Michael O'Grady & Patrick Hyland
10.45	Holy Mass	St Michael Bill Hunt & Michael Noone
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede Marie Comer
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede Stephen O'Connor & Norah Phillips

Parish Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding Lead – Fr. Mark Moran

Safeguarding Representatives – Pauline Ruth, Carol Murray and Pauline Rolt

'Safeguarding in our parish community is the responsibility of everyone'

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede:	Christine & Lynne
St Basil:	Special Intention
St John Fisher:	George O'Grady
St Michael:	Joan Wilcox

Rest in Peace

Athur Tudor, Eleanor Whiteside,
Terence John Roberts, James Norman Hignett,
Joseph Alan Smith, Joyce Connolly,
William Alan Moran & Tony Thompson.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!