

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Palm Sunday (B)

**Second Collection: Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of  
Jesus and Mary**

**Parish Office:**  
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### Parish Clergy:

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator)	0151 513 0024
Rev Fr Thomas Clarke	0151 424 6641
Rev Fr Bill Murphy	0151 495 1854
Rt Rev Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 2738
Rev Deacon Paul Rooney	0151 422 1772

### Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

### Administrator:

Deborah Kenna



### Responsorial Psalm

**R. 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'**

### Connecting

I've thoroughly enjoyed our parish 'Early Riser' 7am Masses each Wednesday. Thank you to all who joined us. Being at Mass as dawn broke was truly inspirational. Experiencing dawn breaking and being at Mass led me to think about the connection between our faith and the natural world, God's creation. I've had various chances to think more deeply about this including lecturing on environmental topics, attending a professional conference on biodiversity and joining the Archdiocesan Environment Conference. These all brought into focus how easy it is to become jaded or tired in our appreciation of the wonderful gift of God's creation. Perhaps we don't take enough time to stop in our busy lives and take notice, to simply 'be' in the beauty of the natural world? Pondering this also reminded me how God's creation is getting an awfully bad deal from us, and yet it is so important. It is literally 'life giving'. Having reminders to connect with nature can really us help to appreciate this.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday. I have a beautifully made yet simple palm cross in the console of my car. It is a constant reminder of my faith and, being made of a natural material, how our faith helps us to value the gift of God's creation and all that it does for us. Let's think about palms.

Palms are a huge plant family that provide millions of people with food, drink and shelter. Palm trees have a host of uses, including as staple crops such as coconut, palm oil or dates, or in the making of furniture, rubber, oil and ropes. According to research published in the journal 'Nature Ecology and Evolution', at least 185 palm species that have a use may be threatened in 92 regions, emphasising the need to protect these plants. The data from this study suggests that more than a thousand species - just over 50% of palms - are threatened with extinction. When you hold your palms this week you are connecting with nature. Perhaps you might use this connection to reflect on how important God's creation is for us and what you can do to help it in your life choices?

Deacon Paul

### **Parish Trip to St Mary's Seminary, Oscott**

*'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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 seminarian's 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.

### **Firewood and Woodchip**

Thanks to those who collected all the firewood last weekend. Could everyone please send in their donations as soon as possible? Some wood chipping is left over and is available for a small donation. Please contact the Parish Office if interested.

### **Stations of the Cross**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at St Bede's Church**

Many people commented at how moving the stations of the cross were, how we used light and dark and different voices. People felt a great connection with Jesus as they stood before the cross individually at the end of the service and brought their own needs and prayers before Him. We shall repeat this service again. Please do come again and, if you missed it, make an extra special effort to come.

### **Lenten Reconciliation Service**

*'Go in peace, your sins are forgiven'* – please come and hear these words as we approach the great feast of Easter. This year's service will take place on:

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at St John Fisher Church.**

Individual confessions will be offered. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **Welcome Sr Pennie...again**

This weekend we welcome once again, Sr Pennie, from the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Sr Pennie will speak at the Masses this weekend that she didn't manage last weekend! She will continue to share the story of how our financial help can help the poorest of the poor in our world. Sr Pennie's community work in parishes and have missions in Africa, Philippines, UK, and Ireland. You are very welcome here Sr Pennie!

### Requiescant in pace

Cynthia Richards, Thomas Mahoney, Amy Ogburn,  
William Durbin, Keith Hughes, Joan Dowling  
Alan Featherstone & Margaret Bowden

**May the Angels lead them into Paradise!**

### Sanctuary Lamp

*The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.*

<b>St Bede</b>	Bernard Glynn
<b>St Michael</b>	Moira Kelly
<b>St John Fisher</b>	Parish Clergy
<b>St Basil</b>	Holy Souls

### New Mass Schedule

Please make a note of the new Mass times, as they begin straight after Easter. Could all extraordinary ministers who have not done so already, please contact Pauline Rolt, so that minister's rota's can be formulated and distributed. From 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 the weekend Mass Schedule in St. Wilfrid's Parish will be:

#### Saturday

10.00 Holy Mass and Confession (*first Saturday of the month*)  
16.30 Vigil Mass at St Basil  
18.00 Vigil Mass at St John Fisher

#### Sunday

09.00 Holy Mass at St Bede  
10.15 Holy Mass at St Michael  
11.30 Holy Mass at St Bede  
12.30 Baptisms  
16.00 Holy Mass at Holy Family (*from 1<sup>st</sup> September, this Mass will return to St Bede's Church*)

### Lourdes 2024

The booking forms that were passed into the Parish Office have been sent off as a group booking, to ensure that St. Wilfrid's Pilgrims are on the same flight etc. If you wish to join the pilgrimage please send your form directly to JW Tours and attach a note asking to be added onto the St. Wilfrid's, Widnes Group. **Do not** pass them into the Parish Office as we have sent the forms received by the date stated.

### Union of Catholic Mothers

A big thank you to all who came to support the UCM Easter Bingo, we raised £519, which is amazing! The money will be sent to the UCM charities. Thank you all for supporting the St Wilfrid's Union of Catholic Mothers. Any lady who wishes to join the UCM or would like to know more please contact the Parish Office and we will put you in touch with UCM members.

### The Knights Choir

The Knights Choir would like to thank everyone who made donations for its services in 2023. As a result, at our recent presentation evening, The Choir was able to pass on £4,000 to local good causes including Halton Haven, Halton Cancer Support Group, Marie Curie and Leukaemia UK. The Choir is always looking for new members to help with the work that it does. Anyone who can hold a note and has some spare time would be very welcome. Singing is good for you! No audition required!

If interested, please contact Roy on 0151 424 1924 or Brendon on 0151 420 0611

## Parish Liturgy

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>h</sup> March</b>	<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Patricia Waller (80 <sup>th</sup> B'day Rem)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	John & Dennis Heaton (Ann)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	David Rowlands & Grandson David
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Pat Walker (LD)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ruth Bibby (3 <sup>rd</sup> Ann)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Holy Week</b>	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Margaret & Kenneth Bate
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>St Bede</b>	<b>Thomas Cuerden</b>
19.30	Stations of the Cross	St Bede	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Holy Week</b>	
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>St Bede</b>	<b>Ellen Jones</b>
<b>11.30</b>	<b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>St Basil</b>	<b>Madge Houghton</b>
19.00	Reconciliation Service	St John Fisher	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Spy Wednesday</b>	
19.30	Chrism Mass	Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King	
<i>(Coach will leave outside St Bede's Church at 6pm, altar servers please bring your albs with you)</i>			
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	
19.30	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St Michael	Alec Ayers (Rem), Mary Tollet, Pauline Noon (LD) & Dennis O'Discoll (LD)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Good Friday of the Passion of Our Lord</b>	
11.00	Childrens Stations	St John Fisher	
15.00	Passion of the Lord	St John Fisher	
15.00	Passion of the Lord	St Bede	
15.00	Passion of the Lord	St Michael	
15.00	Passion of the Lord	St Basil	
19.30	Watching at the Tomb	St Bede	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Holy Saturday</b>	
20.00	Easter Vigil	St Bede	Jean Miller (RIP), Michelle Spencer (9 <sup>th</sup> Ann), Hilda Ogburn (LD) & Thomas Bates
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Emily McLean (Ann)
09.00	Holy Mass	St Basil	Private Intention
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Kathleen William & Paul O'Brien
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Christine Kenny (B'day Rem)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners