

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



7th May 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE (YEAR A)



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Responsorial Psalm

R. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

The Sacrament of The Sick

The annual Parish Celebration of the Sacrament of The Sick will be held this coming Thursday at 12.00 noon at St Michael's church. So now might be a good moment to reflect on this lovely sacrament.

Touching the lives of sick people was a very significant element in the ministry of Jesus.

It was one of the signs of the presence of the Kingdom. So, St James in his letter (5:14ff) says: 'Are there any who are sick among you? Let them send for the priests of the Church and let the priests pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise them up; and if they have committed any sins, their sins will be forgiven them'. From earliest times the Church walked in the footsteps of Jesus in this regard. And the Oil of the Sick is one of the three oils blessed/consecrated by the Bishop at the Mass of Chrism in Holy Week each year.

This is very specifically the sacrament of the 'sick'. The sacrament of the dying is Viaticum.

Viaticum, Holy Communion, is the food for the journey through death to eternal life, a preparation for the banquet of the heavenly kingdom. Hopefully, the Sacrament of the Sick will have been celebrated when it became clear that the person was seriously ill. People speak of The Last Rites and usually think of the anointing as part of these rites, but strictly speaking these rites are Viaticum and the prayers for the dying and the sacrament of anointing of the sick will already have been celebrated, perhaps more than once.

One of the results of a misreading of the sacraments in this way is that people may balk at asking for anointing because it speaks to them of imminent death. In fact, it should speak of life. So please do ask for the Sacrament as soon as you recognise that you are really poorly.

Another of our frustrations as priests is that, in the kindness of their hearts, people will say that the priests have enough on their plates, so don't bother them. But it is what we are here for. We should never be too busy to attend to the sick. Some of my most wonderful moments have been in this part of my ministry.

+ John

Votive Candles

The custom of lighting votive candles before images of the saints is an ancient and laudable devotion that unites us with the Communion of Saints in Heaven. However, the lighting of votive candles should not take place during Holy Mass or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, when the sole focus of our prayer should be Our Blessed Lord truly present in the Eucharist.

Private Prayer

St Bede's Church is open for private prayer Monday to Friday from 10.00am until 13.00pm, except for funerals.

You are encouraged to come in and spend some time in prayer for your own needs, the needs of the Church and the world.

Making your wishes known

The one certainty we have in life is that we shall all die! Yet for those who have the gift of faith, death is not the end it is simply a new beginning in God. However, what happens when we have died is very important, what we want to happen needs to be known to our nearest and dearest now, before it is too late!

Please write down that you would like a Requiem Mass, what hymns you would like to be sung etc. Basically, let your next of kin know what **YOU** want and let them know where you have left your instructions. We write this because sadly some people do not make their wishes clearly known and families, overwhelmed with grief, often make choices that are not appropriate to the person who has died.

"In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, but they are in peace!"

Church Cleaning

The cleaners at St Basil's have requested we ask for volunteers to help them in their hard and dedicated work keeping the church clean. If you are able and willing to offer your time and a little elbow grease, please notify the Parish Office. Thank you.

Parish Procession in honour of the Blessed Sacrament and Our Blessed Lady

Sunday 21st May at 3pm at St. Bede's Church

Please come and walk and pray during this special month of May!

'Bring flowers of the rarest, bring blossoms the fairest.'

Prayers for our First Holy Communion Children

Over the next two weekends, 180 children from across the parish will receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. What a wonderful time of grace and blessing for them and for their families. Please pray for the children.

'God our Father, bless the children in our care as they receive your Son, Jesus, for the first time in Holy Communion. May they stand in awe and wonder at the gift they receive, and may they know that you walk with them through their lives. Bless them and keep them close to you'.

Amen

As the children move forward in their journey of faith supported by their families and the Parish of St Wilfrid, we continue to pray for them.

Requiescant in pace

Doreen Freeman, William Hewitt
William Fay, Keith Dignall,
Mary Topping, Delia Littlemore,
Irene Clarke, Rita O'Neil,

May the Angels lead them into paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Philip Meade, lately Dead
St Michael	John Kenna
St John Fisher	Denise Potter, Anniversary
St Basil	David Harris

Lourdes Pilgrimage

For those parishioners joining us on the Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes in July, full payment is now due.

You may have already received an email payment request from Paylands, which enables you to pay online.

Alternatively, you can pay by cheque. Cheques must be made payable to Northern Star Travel and posted to 46/48 Long Street Manchester M24 6UG.

If you wish to pay by Bacs Payment, the Account Name is Northern Star. Sort Code 77-19-09. Account Number: 00031486.

You **MUST** put your booking reference on all payments.

Mary's Meals

Next weekend we welcome speakers from Mary's Meals Charity who will tell us of their work across the world. They will speak after Holy Communion for a few minutes, there will not be a second collection as we gave generously to this charity last month for their earthquake appeal. But it will be very interesting to hear of their work and how we can help in the future.

Meeting for all Eucharistic Ministers

Could all Eucharistic Ministers please attend a meeting on **Wednesday 10th May** after the **7pm Mass in St. Bede's Church.**

This is an opportunity for us to gather and to discuss offering Holy Communion under both kinds.

Please make every effort to attend.

Mass for Sick & Housebound

Thursday 11th May 12. Noon

St Michael's Church, WA8 8TF

All who desire will be offered the Sacrament of the Sick at this Mass.

Social Group News

'9 to 5, The Musical'

On Wednesday 17th May we shall go to Manchester to see St. Dunstan's Amateur Operatic Society perform this show. They are an amateur group, but everyone who came to see them last year, when they performed 'Betty Blue Eyes', had a wonderful evening together. There was lots of laughter and fun and a 16-piece orchestra to boot!

The coach will leave St. Bede at 6pm and we will return by 11pm. If you would like a ticket, please pop your name, telephone number and £20pp into the parish office and we will reserve you a ticket.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	7th May	Fifth Sunday of Eastertide	
9.00am	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jimmy Finn, Anniversary
9.30am	Holy Mass	St Michael	Denise Rigby, Lately Dead
10.30am	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
11.15am	Holy Mass	St Bede	Hanne Rizcallah, Lately Dead
4.00pm	Holy Mass	St Bede	Neil Quinn, 5 th Anniversary
Monday	8th May		
9.00am	Exposition	St Basil	
9.30am	Holy Mass	St Basil	Fr John Bland
Tuesday	9th May		
11.30pm	Exposition	St Bede	
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Patricia Russell
Wednesday	10th May	St John of Avila	
6.30pm	Exposition	St Bede	
7.00pm	Holy Mass	St Bede	Holy Souls
Thursday	11th May		
12:00 noon	Mass of Anointing	St Michael	Peter Geraghty, Anniversary
Friday	12th May		
9.00am	Exposition	St John Fisher	
9.30am	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Carol Noone
Saturday	13th May		
11am and 1pm – First Holy Communion Masses in all Churches (No Confessions)			
5.00pm	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Lawrence Brennan, Lately Dead
5.00pm	Vigil Mass	St Basil	Bridget Martin, Lately dead
Sunday	14th May		
9.00am	Holy Mass	St Bede	Gerald & Stephen O'Connor, B'day Rem
9.30am	Holy Mass	St Michael	Parishioners
10.30am	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	George O'Grady, Lately Dead
11.15am	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ann Brennan, Birthday Remembrance
4.00pm	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Meaden, Birthday Remembrance