



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)



25th May 2025

Second Collection for SVP

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Psalm Response

'Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you'.

The Power of Reconciliation

On Wednesday evening, 29 slightly tired but spiritually refreshed pilgrims arrived home to our parish after 7 days at Our Lady's Shrine in Medjugorje. It was a wonderful time. Personally, I feel that the message and the fruits of this pilgrimage will only be felt in the weeks and months ahead. I think Medjugorje has to be reflected upon after you have returned home. It is a very 'different' place, it is a place of peace, yet there is a lot of hustle and bustle, especially at the 'holy places'. It is a place where you are faced with your own need for reconciliation, perhaps in ways you didn't realise you did. It is a place where you have 'spare time', when most of us prefer to 'do' rather than to simply 'be'. Medjugorje is a place that is different to any other shrine, it is in its infancy as a place of pilgrimage, yet it holds a message of great urgency, namely peace and reconciliation.

Each evening, the priests are asked to come and hear confessions, and as you walk past, you see a sign to show what language that a particular priest speaks. I am sure every language was covered! For a few hours every single evening, hundreds of people come and confess their sins and receive absolution. What a wondrous gift for priest and penitent.

Speaking to Fr. Peter, I know how humbled we both were hearing those confessions. People who had carried sin, regret, shame and sadness for many, many years were released, they were unbound, as absolution was so freely given. I am sure it is something that we will both reflect upon in the weeks ahead.

As we look around, as we watch the news, as we read the newspapers it is clear that the world desperately needs the message of Medjugorje, the world needs peace and reconciliation. Let us pray for this.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace – pray for us!

Fr Mark, Parish Priest

Knights of St. Columba

'On behalf of the Knights of St. Columba, I am writing to thank you for helping to make the recent visit of the saints' relics such a success. It was great to see so many of parishioners present. Thank you, Fr Mark, Fr Peter & Fr Bill, your help was so much appreciated'.

Gerard Newport, Grand Knight Council 18.

Installation of Archbishop John Sherrington 10th Archbishop of Liverpool

On **Tuesday 27th May** at 12noon + John Sherrington will be installed as the 10th Archbishop of Liverpool at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. I have managed to secure **50** tickets for this wonderful event and have also been assured that we will have specific seating in the Cathedral.

We shall leave outside of St. Bede's Church at **10.30am** and return after the Mass (I would imagine we would be back home by 2.30pm).

If you would like to secure your place for this wonderful Mass and to welcome Archbishop Sherrington, then please pass your name and £10pp for the cost of the coach into the office asap. Please **do not** leave it till last minute to book your place as any tickets that we have spare must be returned to the Cathedral asap as seating is anticipated to be at a premium.

Mary's Meals

Thank you so much for your precious gift of **£1,209.66**, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school. Your kindness is bringing food, joy and hope to the children who eat Mary's Meals, allowing them to make the most of their education and giving them the chance of a better future.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your incredible generosity which will have a life-changing impact on some of the world's poorest children, providing them with food, education and hope for a brighter future.

Marie Doyle Executive Director, Mary's Meals UK

Trinity Safe Spaces Appeal

Trinity Safe Space Charity which supports asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in Widnes and Runcorn, is currently very short of unrestricted funding but is constantly being asked for the following by many of our newcomers.

Men's bicycles in a roadworthy condition, working 2nd hand laptops /tablets, working 2nd hand smart phones (please take off all personal information from the phones and laptops/tablets), men's t-shirts, hoodies, jog pants and summer coats - sizes small to XL, men's new boxer shorts sizes small to XL, men's trainers in good condition sizes 7 upwards, men's socks and men's toiletries.

Donations can be brought to St Michael's Catholic Presbytery on **Mondays 10.15am – 1pm** or **Wednesdays 1.30pm - 3.30pm** or dropped off at our churches from where they will be picked up. Thank you.

Pauline Ruth, Chair of Trustees

Date for your Diary – Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Just to make a note in your diaries! We shall be holding a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from **Wednesday 18th June** till the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, on **Friday 27th June**. The theme of the Novena is *'The heart that...'* and we shall explore the many different ways that the heart of Jesus reaches out to touch our lives.

The Masses will be at 7pm each evening and as well as Fr. Mark and Fr. Peter, we will welcome other priests to come and share the fruits of their contemplation with us.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus – we place all our hope in thee!

Mary Poppins – Liverpool Empire Theatre

I am thinking of booking tickets for us to go to see Mary Poppins in the Liverpool Empire Theatre on **Friday 30th January 2026**. But the tickets are pricey and with the cost of the coach to and from Widnes we would be looking at a cost of £95pp. Which is a lot!

Before I book the tickets could you register your interest by popping your name and telephone number into the Parish Office for the attention of **SUSAN WARBURTON** and if we have enough interest, I will book for us all!

It will be supercalifragilisticexpealodocious!

Fr Mark

The Jubilee Club

St. Wilfrid's Jubilee Club celebrate 25 years of meeting together. Over the years we have enjoyed all sorts of fun days which have included, music, poetry, quizzes and chat days. To mark this occasion, we will enjoy afternoon tea. We thank God who has blessed us so much over the last 25 years.

Fr. Bill Murphy – 50 years of Priesthood

Fr. Bill would like to invite you all to a Mass of Thanksgiving as he celebrates 50 years of Priesthood. There will be Holy Mass celebrated on **Friday 30th May at 7pm** at **St. Basil's Church** and then refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre. All are welcome to come and celebrate with Fr. Bill!

Widnes Food Bank

Thank you to all those who have supported us. Please would you continue to support to help those in our community who are in need. Our current most needed items are: UHT Milk, UHT juice, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Soup, Tinned Fruit and all Toiletries.

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 practices are on Tuesday 3rd June, Monday 30th June and Tuesday 22nd July, all at 7pm in St. John Fisher Church.

Sponsor Walk

The Altar Servers sponsored walk is postponed until further notice.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	25th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede Nancy, Liam & Nick Carter
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael Archie Golding
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede George Edward Lythgoe
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede Mary Norris
Monday	26th May	Memorial of St Philp Neri
11.30	Exposition & Rosary	
12noon	Holy Mass	St Bede John Danes
Tuesday	27th May	Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury
12noon	Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King	Installation of Bishop John Sherrington
Wednesday	28th May	Week 6 of Easter
11.30	Exposition & Rosary	
12noon	Holy Mass	St Basil John Brennan
Thursday	29th May	Holyday of Obligation - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
07.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher Margaret Currie
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil Billy Moran
11.00	Requiem Mass	St Michael Mary (Marie) Morris
19.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher Olwyn Shipman
Friday	30th May	Week 6 of Easter
12noon	Deanery Mass	St Oswald's Warrington Hughie Brennan & Fr Tony Renolds
19.00	Holy Mass	St Basil
Fr Bill's Jubilee, 50 Years of Priesthood		Fr Bill Murphy, Dave Roberts & Brian Hobson
Saturday	31st May	
10.00	Confessions (No Mass)	St. John Fisher
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil Kenneth & Margaret Bate
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher James Finnegan
Sunday	1st June	Seventh Sunday of Easter
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede Parishioners
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael Rowland Cant
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede Margaret Colford
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede Denise Duffy

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Thanksgiving (Medjugorje Pilgrims)
St Basil:	Fr Bill Murphy
St John Fisher:	Billy Moran
St Michael:	Job Interview (MC)

Rest in Peace

Bridget Donaghy, Eric Whitfield, Peter Comerford,
Michael Francis Hardman, Winifred Gill,
Nicholas Cook & Robert Tollet.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!