



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday, Year A)

26th April 2026

Second Collection Priest Training Fund

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Rev. Father Mark Moran (Parish Priest, Moderator).

Rev. Father Peter F. Ross (Parochial Vicar).

Rev. Deacon Paul Rooney.

Rev. Deacon Paul Whitehead.

Psalm Response

“ The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want”.

Gospel Acclamation Verse

“ I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me”.

Keep Going!

In the life of faith, there are seasons when walking forward feels natural—and others when it feels heavy, slow, even uncertain. The Easter light does not deny those moments; it speaks directly into them.

Within the Catholic Church, Easter is not just a single day of joy but a season that gently reminds us: *keep going*. The Resurrection came after waiting, confusion, and sorrow. So, when we struggle to persevere, we are not outside the story—we are right within it.

To keep going in faith is often quiet. It is choosing to pray when words feel dry, to trust when clarity is missing, to show up when motivation fades. These are not signs of weak faith—they are signs of a faith that is real and growing.

At the same time, we are not meant to walk alone. Part of living the Easter light is noticing those who are losing heart. A kind word, a message, a simple “I’m praying for you” can become a lifeline. Encouragement does not require perfect answers—just presence, compassion, and hope.

The light of Easter is not fragile. It does not go out when we feel tired or uncertain. It remains steady, reminding us that Christ is alive and still at work—even in the hidden, ordinary, and difficult parts of life.

So, we keep going, let us encourage one another, and may we trust that the same light that rose from the tomb continues to rise in us, day by day.

Fr. Mark, Parish Priest

Good Shepherd Sunday

This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, a day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Archbishop Sherrington reminded us of the words of St. John Henry Newman in his homily at the Rite of Election, *"Each of you has received a call, given a definite service in the life of the Church. Live the life of love faithfully in your daily lives."* We are each called to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life in our own Archdiocese. There are leaflets at the back of all our churches, offering more information. If you feel you are called to the priesthood, religious life or the permanent diaconate. Please remember to pray for vocations, we need them!

Christ, The Good Shepherd – hear and answer our prayer!

Mother of God, Mary, Most Holy – intercede for your priests!

Parish Easter Dance – What a night!

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Parish Easter Dance. What a wonderful night we shared together, celebrating friendship as a parish family. A special thank you to the Social Group for all their hard work in organising such a fantastic evening. We raised **£2044** which will go towards the upkeep of all our church buildings.

Journey in Faith 2026 - Sacrament of Confirmation

A few months ago, we unveiled our new 'Journey in Faith 2026 - Sacrament of Confirmation' opportunity. This marks a change in direction for us, as for the last number of years we have offered a 'Confirmation Programme'. At a time when the vast majority of our Catholic young people do not attend Sunday Mass, we felt that the 'programme approach' was missing the mark. For the last 8 weeks, our 30 or so young people have been journeying together, exploring faith with questions as simple as *"do you like Jesus?"* and *"do you want to follow him?"* The journey has been so fruitful thus far and we are greatly indebted to Saints Peter and Paul High School for facilitating this experience. We now arrive at the moment of commitment, halfway through the journey, when our young people stand up, commit to discipleship with Jesus and to their continue journey toward the Sacrament of Confirmation in June, and a life of discipleship beyond. Please pray for our young friends as they make this important commitment. The Mass of Commitment will take place **this Saturday** at the **4.30pm Mass at St. Basil's Church**.

Fr. Peter

St. Bede Restoration Project Update

The Parish Buildings and Finance Group are working hard in co-operation with our architects to negotiate/ finalise the specification for Phase II (internal aspect), in advance of approval by relevant Archdiocesan/Civil/Heritage bodies. Phase II, as a process, has proved to be very complicated and has involved a great amount of discussion, research, and evolution. As a Group, we are highly optimistic regarding the internal aspect of the building. We feel it will reflect the historic legacy of the building together with present liturgical/ pastoral requirements.

The Buildings and Finance Group

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a Rosary for Peace

Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XVI urges us to pray for peace. On **Wednesday 6th May at 7pm at St. Bede's Church** there will be a time of prayer, listening to the Sacred Scriptures and reciting a rosary to the Mother of God, the Queen of Peace, for reconciliation in our broken world. Please make every effort to attend and be united in prayer for peace with His Holiness and Christians throughout the whole world.

Parish Choir

Next practice: **Tuesday 28th April, 7pm at St. Bede's Church**. All are welcome to attend! Due to safeguarding advice no unaccompanied under 18's may attend. Future rehearsals are: **Monday 18th May, Tuesday 23rd June and Tuesday 21st July**.

The Drowsy Chaperone – Fr. Philip’s Show

The Drowsy Chaperone is a clever, self-aware comedy that mixes a traditional 1920s-style musical with modern narration. At its core, it’s about a lonely, unnamed theatre fan (called “Man in Chair”) who plays the cast recording of his favorite musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. As he listens, the show comes to life in his apartment, and we see the story unfold while he comments on it. We have tickets for Fr. Philip’s latest show in Manchester on **Thursday 14th May**. We shall leave St. Bede’s at 6pm and travel in a luxury coach to Mostyn and enjoy the show together, we will arrive home at about 11pm. It promises to be a great night of music and fun! We have limited front row seats and if you would like to come, please pass your name and telephone number into the Parish Office. Cost for coach, ticket and sweets whilst you are watching the show is £30pp. If you haven’t been with us before, please think about coming, we always have a great time together as a parish family!

Fr. Mark

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.

18-35 Group

The next meeting will take place on **Sunday 3rd May**, 18:00 till late at **St. Basil’s**. We will be welcoming Father Darren Jones, Parish Priest of St. Blaise Parish in East Bradford (Diocese of Leeds) as our guest speaker. Father Darren will be delivering a session on the Sacred Liturgy (history and importance). Father Darren is a very gifted speaker and is renowned for his interest in and passion for liturgy. After the talk, some of our members will lead us through a quiz social with refreshments. If you are 18-35 and interested in faith, please do come along! It might be the best thing you ever do. Follow us on Instagram **@young_catholics_in_widnes** for more information. There are around 50 people in the group now.

Fr. Peter

Parish Liturgy

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|------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Sunday | 26th April | Fourth Sunday of Easter | |
| 09.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Joan Moran |
| 10.15 | Holy Mass (Sacramental Programme Mass) | St Michael | Marie Morris |
| 11.30 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Parishioners |
| 16.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Cyril & Elizabeth Morris |
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| Monday | 27th April | Monday Week Four of Easter | |
| 12.00 | Requiem Mass | St Michael | Agnes Joyce O'Connor |
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| Tuesday | 28th April | Tuesday Week Four of Easter | |
| 11.30 | Exposition & Holy Rosary | | |
| 12.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Charlie Stevens |
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| Wednesday | 29th April | Feast of St Catherine of Siena | |
| 11.30 | Exposition & Holy Rosary | | |
| 12.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Private Intention (A.R.C.) |
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| Thursday | 30th April | Thursday Week Four of Easter | |
| 12.00 | Service of the Word With Holy Communion | St Michael | |
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| Friday | 1st May | Friday Week Four of Easter | |
| 09.00 | Exposition & Morning Prayer | | |
| 09.30 | Holy Mass | St John Fisher | Honor Evans |
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| Saturday | 2nd May | Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Easter | |
| 16.30 | Holy Mass | St Basil | John Buckley |
| 18.00 | Holy Mass | St John Fisher | Stephanie Edge |
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| Sunday | 3rd May | Fifth Sunday of Easter | |
| 09.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Doug Smith |
| 10.15 | Holy Mass | St Michael | Bridget Donaghy |
| 11.30 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Norah Phillips |
| 16.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Parishioners |

Please note the Parish Office will close at 1.30pm on Wednesday 29th April.

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

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| St Bede: | Michael Richards |
| St Basil: | Special Intention |
| St John Fisher: | James Fay |
| St Michael: | Thanksgiving (F&J) |

Rest in Peace

Joan Ainscough, Catherine McConnell,
Michael Richards, Fr. Brian O' Mahoney CSSp,
James Gallagher & Fr Gerry Cobham
May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

