



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Second Collection - Next Week for SVP



18th May 2025

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Psalm Response

'I will bless your name for ever, my God and king'.

Our Blessed Lady and Our Holy Father

The connection between Mary, the Mother of God, and the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on Earth, is rich with symbolism, devotion, and mission.

Our Lady, as the Mother of the Church (*Mater Ecclesiae*), holds a unique maternal role over all believers, and by extension, over the Pope himself, who is the visible head of the Church on earth. This relationship is not one of authority, but of maternal intercession and guidance.

- **Spiritual Motherhood:** Mary's role as mother extends to the Pope in a personal and ecclesial way. As she intercedes for the whole Church, she offers particular support to the one entrusted with shepherding Christ's flock.
- **Model of Humility and Obedience:** The Pope, called to serve with humility, finds in Mary a model of perfect discipleship. Her fiat ("Let it be done unto me") is echoed in the Pope's commitment to God's will.

In contemplating Our Lady's relationship with the Pope, one is reminded that the Church is not only an institution but a family, where Mary plays a vital maternal role. The Pope, though he holds a unique and authoritative role, also depends on the gentle strength and intercession of Our Lady. Her presence assures the faithful that the Church is never without maternal care and guidance, especially at its highest human leadership.

May Our Blessed Lady intercede and protect Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV!

God bless our Pope!

Fr. Mark

Sponsor Walk

The Altar Server's in the Parish of St Wilfrid are doing a sponsored walk to buy new Cassocks and Surplices. 26th May 2025. Please sponsor them. Ask an Altar Server for more information

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!

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.

Deanery Jubilee Event

To mark this year's Jubilee of Hope, the Archbishop will lead a May Procession for all the parishes in the deanery on **Sunday 18 May at 3.30pm** beginning in St Mary's Shrine on Buttermarket Street, Warrington. The procession won't be long and will conclude with Benediction and refreshments. The event is suitable for all ages and will be a great way of gathering us all together

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

Welcome to the Spiritan Fathers

This weekend we welcome Fr. Peter Otuonkpaikhian and Fr. Benedict Ogbuevule to our parish as they make their appeal on behalf of their religious congregation.

Founded in 1703, **The Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers)** are a Roman Catholic Religious Congregation dedicated to sharing hope and love worldwide. For over 300 years, our mission has been clear: to evangelize the poor and the needy, pursue justice, foster peace, care for creation, inspired by **Luke 4:18** and advance God's kingdom here on earth.

Today, more than 3,000 Spiritans from all continents bring this mission to life in over 60 countries, serving where the need is greatest—hospitals, parishes, prisons, schools, and refugee communities. We also support integral development for young people and work for justice globally. As Pope Francis reminded us in May 2023, we serve "in simplicity of life, respecting peoples and cultures," embracing the most abandoned with fraternity and prayer.

Your support and prayers keep our mission alive. Together, we carry the Spiritan light to the world's darkest corners.

Thank you – Holy Communion Celebrations

Last weekend we celebrated 4 Holy Communion Masses for our children and their families, and each one was prayerful, respectful and joyous! Thank you to the catechists who prepared the children for their special day, the families who responded and to the sacristans, church cleaners, welcomers and all who worked so hard to ensure everyone had a memorable time in our parish community. We are truly blessed!

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

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.

Parish Liturgy

| | | | |
|------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday | 18th May | Fifth Sunday of Easter | |
| 09.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Cecilia McMullan |
| 10.15 | Holy Mass | St Michael | William & Kate Forrest |
| 11.30 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Michael McKeown |
| 16.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Martin Wynne |
| Monday | 19th May | Week 5 of Easter | |
| NO MASS | | | |
| Tuesday | 20th May | Week 5 of Easter | |
| 12noon | Service of the Word with Holy Communion | St John Fisher | |
| Wednesday | 21st May | Week 5 of Easter | |
| 12noon | Service of the Word with Holy Communion | St Basil | |
| Thursday | 22nd May | Week 5 of Easter | |
| 11.30 | Exposition & Rosary | | |
| 12noon | Holy Mass | St Michael | Winifred & Richard Flanagan |
| Friday | 23rd May | Week 5 of Easter | |
| 11.00 | Requiem Mass | St Michael | Robert (Bob) Sherman |
| Saturday | 24th May | Sixth Sunday of Easter | |
| 16.30 | Holy Mass | St Basil | Frank Carolan |
| 18.00 | Holy Mass | St John Fisher | Parishioners |
| 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 |

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| St Bede: | Special Intention |
| St Basil: | Pilgrims in Medjugorje |
| St John Fisher: | Thanksgiving |
| St Michael: | Pat Jackman |

Rest in Peace

Mary (Marie) Morris, Bridget Donaghy
& Eric Whitfield

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!