

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

21st February 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B) PSALTER WEEK 1

“Listen!

**I am standing at
the door
knocking.”**

Rev 3:20



Bishop John Rawsthorne 0151 424 4021

Fr Bill Murphy 0151 495 1854

Fr Mark Moran 0151 513 0024

Fr Carl Mugan (PP) 0151 424 6641

Fr Tom Neylon (PP) 0151 424 2738

PARISH WEBSITE:
stwilfridswidnes.uk

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Reflection.

In the second part of his book 'Let Us Dream', having taken a clear-eyed look in the first part at the reality of the world in which we live, Pope Francis invites us to look to the future. But to look at it with certain fundamental awareness's: that we are loved by God and called to be a people in service and solidarity. And to look in silent reflection, with the Holy Spirit and in dialogue with a community that 'can hold us and allow us to dream'.

He points to the Church's Catholic Social Teaching, reflections on the Gospel in this difficult world, highlighting the Church's preferential option for the poor, and the common good, key values on which we make judgements. Another of those values is the fact that God meant the goods of the earth for everybody. He quotes the church Fathers as saying that giving to the poor is just giving back to them what is theirs. And finally, solidarity and subsidiarity. We all relate to each other, 'welcoming the stranger, forgiving debts, giving a home to the disabled, and allowing other people's dreams and hopes for a better life become our own'. But subsidiarity says that we do not just act for the poor, but with them, recognising and respecting their autonomy.

Francis is calling us, in reading the signs of the times, to discern what is the way forward which will give life to all, which is not hidebound by what we are used to, what we call normal, but to recognise this time of crisis as a moment of grace, a moment when people are open to thinking differently as a result of what we are experiencing together. And that requires, quiet personal and communal discernment, taking time and listening carefully to what everybody has to say... he is making no bones about it, this is the way for the Church of the future, this is the way of SYNOD...'we need a respectful, mutual, listening, free of ideology and predetermined agendas'. He leathers into those who regard their own position as the only one and all else as heresy. And the way forward may not be as clear as we would like it to be. He speaks of waiting for the skies to clear. Time belongs to the Lord.

God bless.

Bishop John

We pray for those who have died:

Lynn Hammond

Margaret Skardon

Christopher Paul Gaskell

Ted Dourley

Veronica McDonnell

Thomas Coady

Those whose funerals take place this week:

Marię Teręsa Quirk

Joseph Wright

Frances Tillyer-Andrews

Norman Corlett



You Tube Mass from St Wilfrid's Widnes will be available on Sunday morning.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC52K27EaYwySzRmeP3f3eA>

Across the Archdiocese:

New resources now available include:

- [Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent](#) (also available as an audio download).
- [Sunday readings](#).
- [Week 24 in the series of 'Armchair Retreats' with Fr Denis Blackledge SJ.](#)

You may also like to check out:

The Global Catholic Movement invites you to "Global Healing."

In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource "Global Healing". These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action.

When? Six Thursdays from 18th February – 25th March 2021, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

How to join? To register please click [HERE](#)

or email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global

Hosted by GCCM Laudato Si' Animators in the UK.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience... Truly, much can be done!" (Laudato Si', 217, 180)

EASTER LILIES

This year we will be offering an opportunity to purchase an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one. The cost will be £5 and the lily will be displayed in one of our churches at the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. The names of the deceased will be displayed in all our churches.

Please put the name on an envelope and post through the office door.



This Lent, **CAFOD** invites you and the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the **Big Walk for Water** virtual event. Help give the boot to water poverty across the world by walking a 5-mile route on **Saturday 20th February at 2pm.**

Could you **Walk for Water** as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days? Find out more at cafod.org.uk/walk