

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

**“Listen!  
I am standing  
at the door  
knocking.”**  
*Rev 3:20*



|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Fr Tom Neylon (PP)     | 0151 424 2738 |
| Fr Carl Mugan (PP)     | 0151 424 6641 |
| Fr Mark Moran          | 0151 513 0024 |
| Bishop John Rawsthorne | 0151 424 4021 |
| Fr Bill Murphy         | 0151 495 1854 |

**PARISH WEBSITE:**  
**stwilfridswidnes.uk**

**Facebook: Parish of St Wilfrid  
Widnes**

<https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridswidnes>

St Wilfrid's Parish Office  
St Bede's Presbytery  
Appleton Village  
Widnes, WA8 6EL  
0151 422 1772

**Please email:**

**stwilfridswidnes@rcaolp.co.uk**

**Office Manager**  
Heather Harrison

**Parish Administrators**  
Susan Warburton  
Shelagh Hindley

**Pastoral Associate**  
Jessy Mottram-Noé

## Reflection

May is traditionally a month devoted to our Blessed Lady, and many of us will remember crowning statues of Our Lady during this month.

Behind all devotions to Mary is the doctrine that Mary, being the mother of Jesus is also then the mother of God. And because Jesus from the Cross gave her over to John to take her as his mother, gave her to all of us as well. As our Blessed Mother, she is always caring for her beloved children with not just a maternal love, but a maternal love that is heavenly, and as our earthly mother's care for us in ways big and small, so too does our Heavenly Mother.

As Catholics, devotion to Mary is part of our daily lives, through saying the rosary, through lighting candles at church or in our homes, and through the different types of novenas prayed to Our Lady. She is the one who intercedes for us throughout our lives. It is always interesting to see how every time there is a Marian apparition, it is always to those who are meek, humble, lowly and nobodies in society. Mary has never appeared to an investment banker, a captain of industry or prime minister of a country. She has never appeared before a celebrity or anyone remotely famous. Her choice has always been for children, many of whom were uneducated. In fact, her focus seems to be on the poor.

Let's not however reduce our devotion to sentimentality, as we run the risk of our devotion becoming superstition. Our devotion should lead us to her Son Jesus, through our willingness to say "yes" as she did to loving and following Him. It is to the Mary who was the Mother of Our Lord, who suffered, who cried, who surrendered herself for him to whom we pray.

It is this Mary that May's devotions honor, and it is this Mary who is crowned the Queen of Heaven. How blessed we are to be able to call her Mother.

**Fr Carl**

We pray for those who have died,

*Mary Rearden, Nora Liptrot, Catherine Cain, Margaret Cain*

Those whose funerals are next week. *John Martin*



### **COLLECTION ENVELOPES**

The envelopes are ready for the new financial year and can be collected from the parish office.

If you would like them delivered to your usual church of worship or direct to your home, please ring the office.

If you have moved to standing order, please let us know.

If any envelopes are not collected this year, we will assume they are no longer required and remove you from the list to save money having the envelopes printed and prepared.

### **MASS INTENTIONS.**

**The following Masses have been said by the priests this month:**

Parishioners of the parish x 4

Tommy Bowles LD

The Holy Souls

Betty Carroll-ill in hospital

Private Intention (JC) X 2

Michael & Winifred Butler RIP

William & Margaret Smith RIP

Dec's member of Keir family

Fr Peter Fox LD x 2

Fred Topping 19<sup>th</sup> Ann.

Clare Myler LD

James Swift LD

Marie Teresa Quirk LD x 2

Ted Wright LD x 2

Residents of all our care homes x 4

Beryl Cooke LD

Mr William – in remembrance

Special Intention – successful operation

Joanne Hounslea LD

Gerald O'Connor B'day remb.

Charlie Stevens

Sean Karalius – 9<sup>th</sup> Ann.

Elizabeth 'Lily' Morris – 7<sup>th</sup> Ann.

Benny Lynch – B'day remb.

David Balmer

Cyril Morris – B'day remb.

Christopher Paul Gaskell LD

John Davies

John McAuley LD

Tommy Coady LD

Stephen Coady LD

Thanksgiving for prayers

answered-Nellie Roberts

Kate Forrest – in remembrance

Janet Wilcox LD

Jennifer Parker - B'day remb.

Brian & Hildegard Murphy –

60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Ann.

Jennifer Parker – Ann.

Thanks for stewards who have  
kept us safe in this difficult time

Frances Tillyer-Andrews LD

Lynn Elizabeth Hammond LD

Marie Cullerton

Mary Percival – B'day remb

Anthony Woods

Charlie Stevens

James Kelleher 1<sup>st</sup> Ann

Denis Murray – B'day remb

Jane Chidlow LD

Patricia Waller 1<sup>st</sup> Ann

Kevin Madden

James Meaden – B'day remb

Ron Workman LD

## CHILDREN'S EASTER LITURGY

Henry said- It was good I enjoyed looking for things in the garden, and lighting the candles. I also liked the little Easter eggs.

Elise said- I liked it, it was good and Fr Mark threw all of the Easter eggs when all of us kids had them.



On Good Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at St John Fisher, Fr Mark joined with children of the parish for a special service for Easter. He was also pleased to welcome quite a few parishioners who wanted to join in and know what was going on! No one was disappointed and everyone joined in beautifully.

Fr Mark sat with the children and talked about reconciliation and then tasked them with going out into the garden to find something that represented bad choices and something that represented good choices. Fortunately, it was a lovely day and the children loved roaming through the church grounds and found old stones and dead and dirty sticks and even a massive stick was brought in by Adam! They found lovely flowers leaves and grasses. The children lit a candle each and said their own prayer before receiving Easter eggs.

It was thoroughly uplifting and wonderful to see the children meeting new friends and enjoying being in church.

Let's hope we will soon be able to enjoy many more Children's Liturgies in the coming months.

## Welcome to our new Priest, Fr Thomas Clarke



My name is Fr Thomas Clarke and I have been a priest of the Archdiocese for just under two years. I was born and raised in South Liverpool and was an altar server at St Charles Borromeo Church from the age of seven right up until my departure for seminary aged eighteen.

My teenage years were filled with laughter, learning and friendship, thanks to the blessed time I spent at St Edward's College. This special time in my life nurtured my lifelong interests in music, history, politics, foreign languages and theology, and in many ways acted as a junior seminary experience whilst I quietly discerned a priestly vocation.

When all of my school friends departed for university, my life took a different direction as I embarked upon my first year of seminary training in Spain, followed by six challenging but very happy years at Oscott seminary in Birmingham.

I was ordained to the priesthood in my home parish on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and took up my first appointment in the parishes of Holy Name and Our Lady & St Philomena in Fazakerley. The last two years have provided a wonderful variety of pastoral work including hospital chaplaincy, prison chaplaincy and high school chaplaincy, all alongside the weird and wonderful daily happenings of parish life and the challenges of the pandemic.

I feel privileged to be joining the wonderful team of clergy at St Wilfrid's parish. I look forward to getting to know you all well and to serve the parish community faithfully. Please pray for me as I take up my new appointment and continue to hold me in your prayers as I promise to pray for each of you.

## We look forward to welcoming Fr Thomas in September.



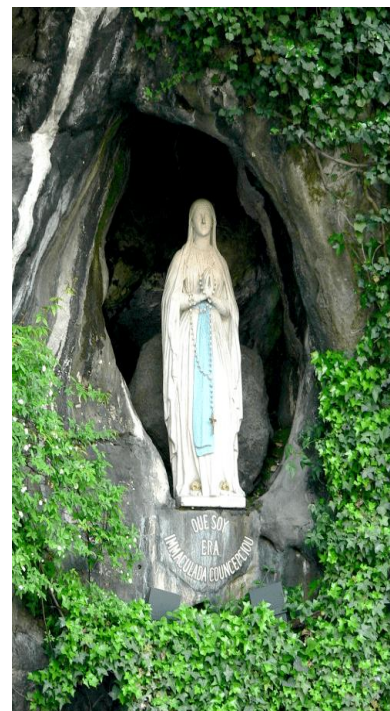
## 'May is the month of Mary'.

May is the month that is traditionally dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and in the parish, we have some beautiful grotto's depicting the scene of Lourdes.

As these grotto's are outside and we can socially distance the rosary will be said at the following places if the weather is **fine** and **dry**, each week during May.

**The grotto at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Friday at 1:45pm**

**The grotto at St. John Fisher – Friday at 10am (after Mass)**



## Baptism

We have been able to start baptising babies and children again which is wonderful news. As with everything it is quite different at the moment with only family bubbles allowed to attend and godparents by proxy but families are happy to have their children baptised and we are happy to be able to welcome them into the Catholic Church.

Please welcome these children who we have baptised this year and pray for them.

*Aiden Henry Arndell*

*Annie Orla Whitfield*

*Callum Paul Vincent Topping*

*Delilah Kitty Langton*

*Luke Kayden Couzens*

*Harry Paul Helliwell*

*Clark Anthony Callan*

*Julia Jane Gregson*

*Lennon George Quinn*

*Harper McInerney*

*Violet Pierce*

*Delilah Grace O'Keefe Ruane*

*Orla Kenny*

*Kingsley Jules Sant*

*Ameila-Rose Liu*

*Orla Marie Walker*

*Lilly-Rose Gamble*

*Luis Joseph Keowski*

*Franklin Kevin Riddell*

*Jack Martin Allan Gamble*

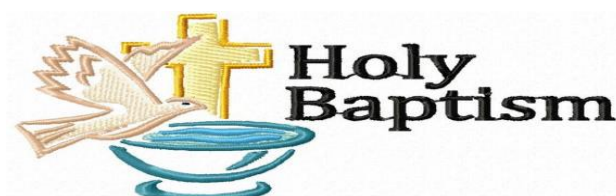
*Alijah Michael Alexander*

*Patsy Ferreira*

*Bobby George Leslie*

*Aniyah Dolores Alexander*

*Mason Clegg*



*This week the Blessed Sacrament Candle burns:*

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>St Basil's</i>       | <i>In memory of Patricia Rhodes</i>                          |
| <i>St Bede's (1)</i>    | <i>In memory of Charlie Stevens</i>                          |
| <i>St John Fisher</i>   | <i>In memory of Mary &amp; Joseph Hyland</i>                 |
| <i>St Michael's (1)</i> | <i>In memory of Jack Connor – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</i> |
| <i>St Michael's (2)</i> | <i>In memory of Pat Barker</i>                               |



### **Sacramental Programme 2021**

Over 180 children have registered for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year. A massive thank you to the staff in our Catholic Primary Schools and our parish catechists who are working to ensure that the children have the best possible experience of receiving these wonderful sacraments for the first time.

Below are the dates and times for the Year 4 children and all the Year 5 children have been contacted via e mail.

The children in year 4 begin their preparation in the next couple of weeks after school, please pray for them and welcome them if you see them at Mass.

Fr. Mark

#### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

- 11am – St. John Fisher School @ SJF Church
- 11am – St. Basil's School 1 @ St. Basil's Church
- 11am – OLPS School @ St. Michael's Church
- 11am – St. Bede School 1 @ St. Bede's Church
- 1pm – St. Basil's School 2 @ St. Basil's Church



#### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

- 11am – St. Bede School 2 @ St. Bede's Church
- 11am – St. Michael's School @ St. Michael's Church
- 11am – St. Gerard's School @ SJF Church
- 1pm – St. Bede School 3 @ St. Bede Church

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please remember that due to social distancing and Health & Safety measures we have to adhere to strict numbers in church. Please show courtesy and understanding to the stewards if they have to tell you that the church has reached capacity.

**ST BASIL'S**                      **60**  
**ST JOHN FISHER**            **50**

**ST BEDE'S**                      **68**  
**ST MICHAEL'S**            **110**

**'Time of prayer for those affected by sexual abuse'**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**

**St. Bede's Church, WA8 6EL**

*Our Holy Father, Pope Francis has called for a worldwide day of prayer for all those affected by sexual abuse in our society. We here in our parish will gather in church to pray together before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, He who is the Healer of all pain, distress and sorrow.*

*Please come and pray as a community for those who have suffered and are suffering from sexual abuse.*



On line Masses can be accessed from the Metropolitan Cathedral by following the link below:

[The Metropolitan Cathedral Liverpool - YouTube](#)

You can also access Masses from Walsingham:

[www.youtube.com/WalsinghamCatholicTV](http://www.youtube.com/WalsinghamCatholicTV).



### Confirmation

We are happy to say that we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in Widnes this coming Autumn. If your child is in Year 8 or above and hasn't yet received the sacrament and is interested in receiving this year, please contact Fr Carl on 0151 424 6641 or register your child on "Liverpool Called" at the link below, as soon as possible.

<https://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk/confirmation>

### Reception of Holy Communion

For us all, receiving Jesus in Holy Communion is so important and a wonderful gift that we receive at every Mass. Could we ask that when you have received the Sacred Host that you place it in your mouth *before* you turn away from the priest and leave the church.

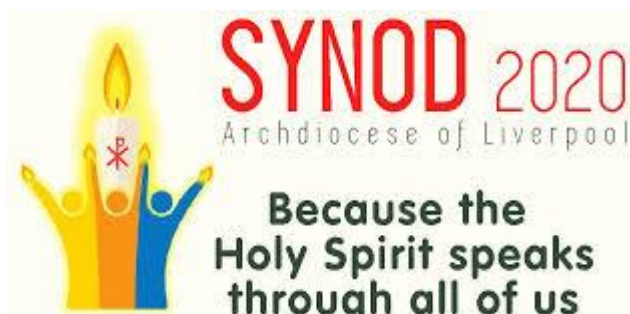
Thank you.

The Clergy Team



**Congratulations**, to Stephanie and Cathy from our parish who walked alongside Abdella during Lent by walking 10,000 steps, every day, for 40 days. They raised £730 which has been donated to the Cafod Walk for Water appeal.

**Well done and thank you to them both.**



Hello Everybody,

As we approach our Archdiocesan Synod, taking place online on 19th June, Synod Members are currently discerning how they will vote on the recommendations that have emerged. If you haven't seen them yet, there are three places you can find them:

1. Printed in the April edition of the Catholic Pic ([www.catholicpic.co.uk](http://www.catholicpic.co.uk))
2. On our Synod Recommendations Website ([www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk](http://www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk)) alongside theological reflections on the topics
3. Printed in our Synod book Together on the Road which also includes resources for discernment and the theological reflections (available for £3 from Pauline Books and Media, and the Synod Office, email: [synod2020@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:synod2020@rcaol.co.uk) Tel: 0151 486 1206).

Please continue to keep the Synod in your prayers in the coming months.

With best wishes,

Fr Philip, Fr Matthew, Jacqui, Kenny & Chris  
The Synod Office Team



Here at St Wilfrid's our Parish Synod members have recently attended an online Archdiocesan Day when the Synod Recommendations were shared and discussed in detail. They are now tasked with spending these coming months discerning how they might vote in response to '*becoming the Church we are called to be*'.

To aid their discernment if you would like to share your thoughts and reflections, having read the recommendations, please email them through to [stwilfridsynod@gmail.com](mailto:stwilfridsynod@gmail.com) where our Parish Synod members will be able to access them as part of their discernment process.

Many thanks for all your participation in the Synod process over these past two years as we've journeyed through 'unexpected waters' together.





**Widnes Foodbank** gratefully receives donations of any food items but would particularly welcome donations of the following food items:

Sponge Puddings    Tinned Custard    UHT Milk    Tinned Fruit  
 UHT 1Lt Juice    Packet Pasta 'n' Sauce    Unisex Deodorant    Hand Wash

Any additional information can be found at: [www.widnesfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.widnesfoodbank.org.uk)

**Thank you to anyone who can make a donation.**

## RCIA – Journey in Faith (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

We, as a clergy team, are aware that there might be adults in our parish who desire to know more about their faith, get baptised and confirmed or even feel called to change their denomination by becoming a Catholic.

### You are not forgotten!

In the last 12 months with all the changing regulations and restrictions it was impossible for us to meet together as RCIA is rooted in relationship and sharing our faith and our stories with each other.

In September (please God!) we will be able to meet together and begin a journey together, so please watch this space! If you are discerning your way forward within the Church at the moment then please come to Mass, devotions and prayer times as often as you can and you will learn and see who and what we are as a Catholic Community in Widnes.

| THIS WEEKEND   |          | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) |  |
|--|----------|--------------------------|--|
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> May   | 11am     | St Bede's                | Confession                                 |
|  | 5pm      | St Michael's             | Mass                                       |
|  | 6pm      | St Basil's               | Mass                                       |
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May   | 9am      | St Michael's             | Mass                                       |
|  | 9am      | St Bede's                | Mass                                       |
|  | 10am     | St John Fisher           | Mass                                       |
|  | 11am     | St Bede's                | Mass                                       |
|  | 4pm      | St Bede's                | Mass                                       |
| WEEKDAYS   |          | DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 1     |  |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May   | 9:30am*  | St Basil's               | Mass                                       |
|  | 7:30pm   | St Bede's                | Time of Prayer for Victims of Sexual Abuse |
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May  | 12 noon* | St Bede's                | Mass                                       |
| Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> May  | 7pm*     | St Michael's             | Mass                                       |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May   | 12 noon* | St Bede's                | Mass                                       |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> May   | 9:30am*  | St John Fisher           | Mass                                       |
| *The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for 30 minutes before each Mass |          |                          |  |