



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Second Collection Next Week: Catholic Education

6th September 2026

Parish Office:

Monday to Friday: 9:30-16:30
(unless stated in newsletter)

St Bede's Presbytery
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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

"O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts."

Gospel Acclamation Verse

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

The Power of Our Bereavement Mass

As Roman Catholics, we hold a sacred responsibility to pray for those who have died and to support those who are left behind. Our Bereavement Masses are profoundly powerful moments where we reach out to members of our community who are carrying the heavy burden of grief.

Remembering our deceased loved ones in prayer is not just a tradition; it is a spiritual act of mercy. The Holy Mass is the greatest prayer we can offer for the faithful departed, bridging the gap between heaven and earth. Let us pray fervently for the souls of the departed and let us be the comforting hands and hearts that reach out to our grieving neighbours.

Our parish is deeply grateful to the Bereavement Team for their exceptional ministry. By extending comfort and care to grieving families, you embody the compassionate heart of our community. We are truly indebted to you for this vital service.

Eternal rest,

Grant unto them O, Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

Fr. Mark

Good News at Last: Phase II Work Approved

We are pleased to share some long-awaited good news about Phase II of the building work to repair and restore the interior of St Bede's church.

Approval to Move Forward

After many hours of meetings with architects and restoration specialists, we have now been given the green light for Phase II to move to the next stage. The Historic Churches Committee has granted approval for the submitted plans, and this approval sits alongside Halton Council's approval for the proposed side extension and the support of the Art and Architecture Group from the Archdiocese.

Next Steps and Timescale

The approval process has been lengthy and detailed, covering everything from bat surveys and hedgehog reports to liturgical and structural queries. We are now beginning the next stage of appointing a contractor.

- St Bede's church will remain open for Christmas celebrations.
- Once the work begins, the church will close until the repair, and restoration work is fully completed.
- Subject to contractor appointment, work is expected to begin in January.
- The project is expected to take around 12 months.

Keeping Everyone Informed

We will continue to share further information as the project progresses. Once the contractor has been appointed, plans for the work will be displayed at each of our churches.

Looking Ahead

It has been a long and demanding road, much of it because the church is Grade II listed. However, it will all be worthwhile when the work is complete and St Bede's church is reopened in all its splendor.

The Building and Finance Team

Peter McCann, John Tully, Fr. Mark, Susan Warburton,

Fr. Peter, Wayne Murray and Dcn. Paul Rooney

Rome and Assisi Pilgrimage Meeting

Pilgrims Meeting has been changed to Wednesday 9th September at 7pm at St. Bede's Church; please make every effort to attend as we have some information regarding the flights that we need to clarify with all pilgrims.

Fr. Mark

Are you an RCIA 'Graduate'?

If you are one of our wonderful RCIA Alumni from last year, or from previous years, we would love to invite you to a Reunion Social at **7pm on 29th September** in the Parish Guild Hall.

Grab a drink and a piece of cake and let's get together to talk about the future and how we can accompany each other, and our fellow parishioners, to keep growing in faith as we continue to make St Wilfrid's a wonderful place to be! If you would like to know more about RCIA which starts **16th September**, please leave your contact details at the Parish Office and Pauline Rolt will contact you.

St Wilfrid's RCIA Team

Annual Mass in Honour of Venerable Elizabeth Prout

On **Saturday, 12th September**, at midday, parishioners from across the diocese will gather at St. Anne and Blessed Dominic Church in Sutton, St. Helen's, for the Annual Mass in Honour of Venerable Elizabeth Prout (the foundress of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion). Ven. Elizabeth is buried in Sutton, alongside Blessed Dominic Barberi and Venerable Ignatius Spencer, in a church commonly called *the church of the three saints*. Bishop Tom Neylon was originally due to celebrate this mass; however, due to his recent ill health, St. Wilfrid's very own Father Peter Ross has been asked to preside and preach. We wish Bishop Tom a speedy recovery! All are welcome.

Apostolic Nuncio to visit Widnes!

The upcoming visit of the Apostolic Nuncio to the Medaille Trust on **Friday 11th September**, represents a momentous milestone in our ongoing mission to combat modern slavery and human trafficking. Founded in 2006 by a coalition of Catholic religious congregations, the Medaille Trust has grown to become the UK's largest provider of supported safe house beds for survivors fleeing exploitation. They provide a vital lifeline of refuge, trauma-informed medical care, legal guidance, and long-term outreach to help men, women, and families rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. By offering structured safe houses across the country, we work tirelessly alongside law enforcement and community partners to shift individuals from a state of captivity into full independent living.

Receiving Archbishop Miguel Mary Maury Buendia, the Apostolic Nuncio, who serves as the Pope's official ambassador and diplomatic representative to the country, is an extraordinary honour for the entire network. This visit acts as a powerful affirmation of our foundational roots and our daily commitment to Catholic social teaching, which demands the absolute protection of human dignity. For our dedicated staff, volunteers, and trustees, hosting the Holy See's representative brings global recognition to the quiet, vital work taking place within our safe houses. Most importantly, it sends a profound message of hope and solidarity directly to the survivors we serve, showing them that their journeys toward healing are seen, valued, and supported by the highest levels of the global Church.

St. Vincent de Paul Address

Next weekend, St. Wilfrid's Parish will warmly welcome Mr. Jim Lynch, the President of the SVP Society, as he speaks to congregations at all Masses. This visit offers a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to hear firsthand about the vital charity work being carried out in our name, made possible through our community's continued prayers and financial generosity.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is an international Catholic volunteering organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing direct, practical assistance to those in need. In keeping with our parish's long-standing tradition of hospitality, we look forward to giving Mr. Lynch a very warm welcome as he shares how our collective support is transforming lives.

Hear more about CAFOD's work!

Thanks to your generous support at moments like Harvest Family Fast Day, CAFOD works across the globe. We are hosting a visit from Michel, CAFOD's manager in Sierra Leone and Liberia. He will share his experiences of the kind of work your support makes possible – a great chance to hear more detail about the difference you can make!

When: Saturday 26th September, 2pm – 3:30pm (with refreshments from 1:45pm)

Where: Parish Hall at St John Fisher (Moorfield Rd, Widnes, WA8 3JA)

Widnes Food Bank

As food prices remain high, many families are under huge pressure to put food on the table. We would really appreciate your continuing help to feed those in our community who are in need. If you can donate food to us, our current most needed items are below.

Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned fruit, Pasta in Sauce, Microwave rice, 1 Litre UHT milk.

Young Catholics in Widnes

Our next event will take place on **Sunday 6th September** at St. Basil's. We'll meet at **18:00** for a time of adoration, followed by Benediction in Latin. After that, its BBQ time, followed by Basil's Bingo. Come along! Follow us on Instagram: @young_catholics_in_widnes.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	6th September	Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Parishioners
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	Bridget Loftus
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede	James O'Brien (Jnr & Snr)
15.15	Confessions	St. Bede	
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Denis Ward
Monday	7th September	Monday Week 23 in Ordinary Time	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St. Bede	Jean Smith
10.00	Funeral Service	St. Basil	John Christopher Lavery
Tuesday	8th September	Feast of the Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St. Bede	Mark William Hyland
Wednesday	9th September	Wednesday Week 23 in Ordinary Time	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St. Michael	Margaret Mary Todd
Thursday	10th September	Memorial of St Andrew Barlow	
10.00	Welcome Mass	St Gerard's School	Mass Association
Friday	11th September	Friday Week 23 in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Peggy Crerar
10.00	Funeral Service	St. Bede	Sharon Fox
Saturday	12th September	Vigil of the Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
12.00	Holy Mass	St. Anne and Blessed Dominic	Patricia Devaney
	Venerable Elizabeth Prout	WA9 3ZD	
16.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Jeffrey Foster
18.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Denis Tarpey
Sunday	13th September	Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Robert O'Shaughnessy
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	Parishioners
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede	George Grace
15.00	Evening Prayer with the Apostolic Nuncio		Cathedral of Christ The King
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Lil & Roy Nelson

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for 7 days for your intention

St. Bede:	Albert Timperley
St. Basil:	Joseph Davies
St. John Fisher:	Special Intention (CF)
St. Michael:	Patricia King

Rest in Peace

Brian James, Carolyn Mc Mullin,
Margaret Wall, Carol Clark,
Peter Gibbs & Pauline Semourson.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!