

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



25th February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent Second Collection - Lourdes Youth

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Responsorial Psalm

'I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living'

Don't listen to the whisper...

Every Lent, when I listen to the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness I am always impressed by the wiliness of the devil. The devil comes and offers Jesus the things that He desperately wants, food, shelter, assurance – things that we all need and then the evil one whispers the word **'IF'** – **'IF** you are the Son of God', the small but powerful word, **'IF'**.

Jesus, we are told went into the desert to discern the Father's will, to listen without distraction to what He was being called to be, to learn and know His Sonship with the Father. And in the middle of all that discernment, the clever devil comes and offers a solution to exactly what Jesus is battling against – His own insecurity as He faces the beginning of His mission. And he uses the word, **IF**.

The devil whispers, he doesn't shout, he comes and whispers into our ear with the easy solution, the excuse, the *'it doesn't matter, no one will know'* – he offers us a way out. A way out of our Lenten promises, a way out of thinking of others and only thinking of self, a way out of coming closer to Jesus – after all this is the devil's only purpose, to stop us from being united with Jesus, but only **IF** we listen to his whispering hiss!

Fr. Mark

LGBTQ+ Mass

The next gathering for Holy Mass for those who are, and those who are supporting members of the LGBTQ+ community will take place at;

All Saints' Church, Oakfield Road, L4 2QG on Sunday 3rd March at 2pm

This is a wonderful opportunity to gather to support one another in journeying towards Christ within the Roman Catholic Church. All are welcome! Further information from: Canon Stephen Maloney.

Lenten Journey

Wednesday 28th February – Early Riser Mass at St. Bede at 7am

Come and hear His voice in the stillness of the morning, calling you into holiness and healing.

Wednesday 28th February – Scripture Group, 12.30pm at St. Bede's Presbytery

This week we shall ponder the Purification of the Temple

Sacristans Meeting

Could all sacristans please meet with me on **Thursday 29th February** after the 12noon Mass at St. Michael's to discuss the forthcoming Mass time revision and to answer any queries that you may have. If any of the sacristans need a lift to St. Michael's church, please ask another sacristan to give you a lift. Fr. Mark

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass, which this year will take place on **Wednesday 27th March** at 7.30pm in the Metropolitan Cathedral is usually the largest annual gathering of archdiocesan clergy and faithful throughout the year. At the Mass, Archbishop Malcolm blesses the holy oils that are used throughout the archdiocese for celebrations of the sacraments in the next year. He does this in the presence of priests, deacons and lay faithful.

Additionally, the Archbishop invites the priests of the archdiocese to renew the promises they made at their ordination: to dedicate their life in service to the Church - to preach the Gospel and teach the Catholic faith, to faithfully celebrate the sacraments and to pray for God's people.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this liturgy enhanced by the Cathedral Choir, and experience the richness of our local church, especially if you have never been before.

Altar Servers are encouraged to attend and wear their albs and sit with other altar servers from across the Archdiocese.

A coach will be available to take St. Wilfrid's parishioners to the Chrism Mass, we shall leave outside St. Bede Church at 6pm and return around 9.30pm. If you would like to come on the coach, please pass your name and offering of £5 into the Parish Office marked, 'CHRISM MASS' and we shall reserve you a place on the coach.

Garden Tidy Up – St. Bede

You may have noticed that the gardens at the front of the church are looking much tidier this month, this is due to the efforts of a group of dedicated volunteers who have been busy over the past few weeks removing excessive growth and a considerable amount of rubbish. This is the best time of year for clearance work to have minimum impact on wildlife.

We thank them for their extremely hard work which has done so much to rejuvenate our gardens and look forward to seeing the results of their labour as the year continues.

If anyone is interested in assisting with this important work and would like to be involved at St Bede's or any of the other parish churches, please get in touch with the parish office, or have a chat with any of the volunteers you may see working in the gardens.

Requiescant in pace

George David Billington,
Christine Wilson,
Winefride Treacy & Linda Rubin

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	John Naughton
St Michael	Bishop John
St John Fisher	Gorman & Murphy Family
St Basil	Children of the Parish

A Lily for Easter

There are envelopes at the back of all churches, with a list inside for you to place the names you wish to be remembered at Easter and for your donation. The envelopes should be returned to the Parish Office.

Women's World Day of Prayer

St Bede's – Friday 1st March – 2pm
The service this year was written by the women of Palestine. Please join us to pray for peace.
Refreshments will be served.

Lourdes Fundraising Appeal

My name is Hannah Moriarty, and I am a Eucharistic Minister in the parish. When I was young, both my Dad and Grandad would go to Lourdes every year and ever since, I have wanted to take this pilgrimage myself. This year, I have the opportunity to be a part of the Liverpool Archdiocesan Youth Pilgrimage.

Traveling as part of the Youth Pilgrimage, we will begin our time by taking a 28-hour coach journey from Knowsley to Lourdes. This journey will allow us to get to know each other and bond as a team. Once we are in Lourdes, our main role will be to help the assisted pilgrims by taking them to the grotto, Mass and even for a cup of tea and a look round the many religious gift shops! I am really looking forward to listening to the life stories and past pilgrimage experiences of those I will be assisting, and I hope that their knowledge will help guide me throughout my own pilgrimage experience. I am so excited to make my first pilgrimage to Lourdes as it is a chance for me to explore my own faith and relationship with God whilst being amongst other young people helping to serve those in need.

This year, the cost of the pilgrimage has risen so I am asking for a small donation to help me to experience the healing grace of God and visit this truly special place. Any amount will be deeply appreciated, and I promise to keep you all in my prayers while I am there.

This weekend we shall have a second collection at all Masses to help Hannah and other young people go to Lourdes to help the sick this year. Please be as generous as you always are in helping our young people develop and deepen their faith.

Presentation Mass – Sacramental Programme

Next weekend, at all Masses, the children who are preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be presented to the community and they ask for our prayers as they begin this wondrous journey of growing in their faith. The children will come with their families, and it will mean that the churches will be full, (what a wonderful problem to have!) so please, be welcoming to these families, give a smile and a word of welcome. Let them know that they are welcome EVERY week here in their parish community!

Firewood

As part of our garden refurbishment, we now have some logs, which after reducing in size and drying out will be suitable anyone who has a log burning fire, to burn next winter.

The logs will be available for anyone to collect, in exchange for a donation to parish funds, on Saturday 9th March 09.00 - 12.00 or by appointment.

Please note the logs are large and heavy so will need cutting and splitting before use by the person collecting, they are not pre-packaged in a convenient size.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	25th February	Second Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Thomas Scraggs (LD)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Parishioners
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Fr Peter Fox (3 rd Ann)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Dennis O'Driscoll (LD) (Cork)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Thomas Bowles (3 rd Ann)
Monday	26th February	Weekday of Lent	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	May Nolan
11.00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Thomas Rolt
Tuesday	27th February	Weekday of Lent	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St John Fisher	Marion Byrne
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Norah Phillips & Stephen O'Connor
Wednesday	28th February	Weekday of Lent	
07.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Alf Stevens (LD)
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	John & Nancy Barrow (Ann)
Thursday	29th February	Weekday of Lent	
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	
12 noon	Requiem Mass	St Bede	John Joseph O'Brien
Friday	1st March	Feast Day of St David, Patron of Wales	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	James Fay
Saturday	2nd March	Weekday of Lent	
10.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Special Intention (GL)
10.30	Confessions		
<i>(Enrolment at all Masses for Sacramental Programme)</i>			
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Jean Miller (LD)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	Mary Bebbington (ANN)
Sunday	3rd March	Third Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ken Gibbins (5 th Ann)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Margaret & Philip Fallon (Golden Wed)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Carol Ann Randall (B'day Rem)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Robert Warren (B'day Rem)

