

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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

Archdiocese of Liverpool
Registered Charity No 1199714

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Times (Year A)

8th November 2026
Parish Office:
Monday to Friday: 9:30-16:30
(unless stated in newsletter)

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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
"For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God."
Gospel Acclamation Verse
"Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

We prayed for new people. Now they're knocking at the doors. Are we ready?

Last month, I was privileged to attend a special Mass at St. Philip Neri Church in Liverpool, for all young adults from across the Archdiocese. The Mass was beautiful and well attended, with many members of our own parish group joining in the celebration. We then headed down to Blackburn House for a celebratory meal. See the latest Catholic Pic for more. It was a success and a breakthrough moment.

I have been reflecting since on ministry to young adults in our region. The truth is, there's a lot going on, but not enough. If we were serious about mission, such a Mass would not be a surprising first but a regular event! Many young adults are all of a sudden interested in Jesus Christ and His Church.

They're knocking at the doors, literally! Every week, across our churches in Widnes, I see at least a few new faces. What are we doing for them? At St. Wilfrid's, we're trying to do our bit, but there's a real complacency in the wider Church at the moment. Across many of the towns of the Archdiocese, there is currently nothing going on for young people, whom Pope Francis described as "the now of God". We are not meeting them where they are at and yet we are declaring that they are a priority. It doesn't make sense. We have been praying for new young people for years. Now we're getting them, are we ready?

Fr Peter Ross

St. Wilfrid's Parish - Consultation Continues

The Trustees of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, at their meeting in September 2026, considered the 3 options for the Parish of St Wilfrid. These options have been shared with the parish in the newsletter on the **14th/15th September**. They appreciate the commitment given to the process and the participation of people in the process of discernment. They noted that this discernment is difficult for a local church community to address. The Trustees are very aware of the changes that have taken place in Widnes over the last 11 years and are firm in their opinion that the future pastoral and spiritual care of the people of Widnes is assured. Option 1 envisages two church buildings, St. Bede's and St. Basil's.

The Archbishop, having heard the reflections to date of the parish community and having received letters from parishioners, as well hearing the concerns of the Trustees about the structural condition of St Michael's Church, the long-term capital investment needed and the overall pastoral and spiritual provision for the town of Widnes, has given permission to begin further prayerful discernment and the canonical consultation to take St. Michael's Church out of sacred use. The consultation process regarding the St. John Fisher site will commence when St. Bede's Church opens after the restoration.

A consultation meeting will be held at St Basil's Church on **Thursday 26th November** at **7.00pm**. You may also express your views by writing to the Archbishop by letter or email, **consultation.widnes@rcaol.org.uk**

Canonical Process – St. Michael's Church

The canonical process for St. Michael's Church is structured in four distinct phases: the consultation period, the council review, the Archbishop's final discernment, and the potential appeal process. The timeline began on **1 November 2026** with an announcement in the parish newsletter opening the public consultation. Parishioners and interested parties can submit their comments, feedback, or concerns directly to the Archbishop via letter or email at **consultation.widnes.@rcaol.org.uk** until the closing date on **20 December 2026**.

Following the public phase, the process moves to the Council of Priests, who will be formally consulted on the matter during their upcoming meeting in **February 2027**. Once all canonical consultations are complete, Archbishop Sherrington will enter a period of prayer, discernment, and final decision-making.

No official decisions have been made yet, meaning the window for formal appeals is not yet open. The right to appeal only arises after the Archbishop issues an official decree. When that final decree is published, it will include explicit instructions outlining the exact timeline and procedure for how appeals must be made.

Masses for the Bereaved

Our annual Masses for the Bereaved will take place at St. Basil's Church **on Sunday 15th November** and **Sunday 22nd November** at 4pm. During these special Masses, we will gather as a community to prayerfully remember everyone from our parish who has died over the past 12 months. We will also lift up in prayer all those currently experiencing the pain of loss and bereavement. As a meaningful act of remembrance, the names of the deceased will be read aloud, and candles will be lit in their memory. Anyone wishing to pray with and support those who are grieving is warmly welcome to attend.

St. Wilfrid's Parish Choir

We will meet at 7pm in St. Basil's Church on the following dates: **Monday 9th November, and Tuesday 1st December.** All are welcome!

Presentation of the Papal Bene Merenti Medal

It is with great joy that we can announce that Bishop Tom Neylon, Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool, will join our community on **Tuesday 24th November** to celebrate the 12noon Mass and to present **Mr. Terry Hayes** with the Bene Merenti Papal Award from his Holiness Pope Leo XIV. The award is given for Terry's dedicated service and fidelity to Holy Mother Church. Please join us for this beautiful celebration to honour Terry's lifelong devotion to our parish family. Refreshments will be served after Mass. All are welcome!

Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

Our recent pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi was a great success. In warm sunshine and clear blue skies, the group explored many famous sites, shared prayerful moments, and enjoyed fun, laughter and growing friendships. A folder of photographs from the pilgrimage is now available to view at the back of St Bede's Church. The folder will circulate around the churches so that everyone has a chance to see it before it is placed in the parish archives. Pilgrims are welcome to contribute a favourite photograph, reflection or comment for inclusion in the book and the pilgrimage archive. Please send contributions to the Parish Office, marked for the attention of Peter McCann.

The Gospel of Mark - A Series of Talks

For the third-year running, St. Wilfrid's Parish is pleased to offer a series of four accessible talks on the Sunday Gospel for the ensuing liturgical year (2026/27), the Gospel of Mark. As always, these talks, taking place on **Wednesdays** at **19:00** at the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher, are aimed at 'anyone and everyone', with the four speakers bringing their own wisdom and experiences to the table. Each session concludes with benediction at 20:00. This coming week we welcome Kate Wilkinson on **11th November 2026 - Kate Wilkinson: Evangelisation and Mission.**

Knights of St. Columba – Lanzarote Marathon

Stephen Kelly is running the Lanzarote Marathon on Saturday **5th December 2026**, to raise funds to help send a sick parishioner on a pilgrimage to Lourdes in the summer of 2027. Every donation will go to the Knights of St Columba Council 18 Lourdes Fund, Widnes, helping to make this special pilgrimage possible. Your generosity and support would be greatly appreciated. Every pound will make a difference! For further information, please contact Mike Naughton: 0151 424 8009 or Stephen: 0787 948 3454. Thank you for your kind support and generosity. To donate visit: https://gofund.me/ca87c5c26

HCPT group 180 – 40 years old!

Friday 13th November at 7pm – Quiz Night at Widnes Cricket Club. £5 per person. Raffle. Prizes. Fun. All are welcome. **Saturday 14th November** - Mass of Thanksgiving for HCPT in Widnes. Mass will take place at St Basils at 1pm followed by afternoon tea in the St. Basil's Parish Centre at 2pm. All are welcome.

You'll never walk alone!

Our parish trip to Manchester for the show on **Wednesday 11th November** is fast approaching!

- **Departure:** The coach will leave from **St. Bede's Church at 6:00 pm** sharp.
- **Return:** We expect to be back at the church by approximately **10:30 pm**.

I am sure we shall have a wonderful evening together! Thank you to everyone who has booked a place.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	**8th November**	**Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Brian Holding
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	Barry Hudson
10.40	**Service of Remembrance**	**Victoria Park (Gather at Bandstand)**	
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Margaret Rimmer
15.15	Confessions	St. Bede	
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Parishioners/Pious List
Monday	**9th November**	**Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**	
09.00	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Gerald Bennett
Tuesday	**10th November**	**Memorial of St Leo the Great**	
11.30	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Mass Association Members
Wednesday	**11h November**	**Memorial of St Martin of Tours**	
11.30	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Special Intention (AT)
Thursday	**12th November**	**Memorial of St Josaphat**	
11.30	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St. Michael	Margaret Ratcliffe
Friday	**13th November**	**Friday Week 32 in Ordinary Time**	
09.00	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Olive Hargie
Saturday	**14th November**	**Vigil of Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
13.00	HCPT Mass	St. Basil	Pious List
16.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Graham Kaye
18.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Elizabeth McAdam
Sunday	**15th November**	**Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Bishop John Rawsthorne
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	Linda Garvie
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Parishioners/Pious List
16.00	**Holy Mass (Bereavement Mass)**	**St. Basil**	**Holy Souls**

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for 7 days for your intention

St. Bede: Richard Kelleher
St. Basil: Gary & Tracy Swindley
St. Basil: John Rooney
St. John Fisher: Bishop John Rawsthorne
St. Michael: Blessings Received

Rest in Peace

Margaret Rowlands

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!