

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Twenty Third in Ordinary Time (A)
2nd Collection: Catholic Education
Next week: 2nd Collection: Home Missions

10th September 2023

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Responsorial Psalm

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

An Irish Adventure

Can you believe we are in September with the holidays over and schools have begun a new academic year? I hope you had some time away to recharge your batteries...

A nephew of mine and his girlfriend announced that they were going on ten-day tour of Ireland. On the spur of the moment, I heard myself saying "is there a spare seat in the car for another passenger" "sure uncle Billy you are welcome to join us.

The last time I was in Ireland was six years ago when I visited some members of my late brother's family in Dublin; I have been promising one of his sons who lives in Waterford to come and visit. So, I rang him that afternoon to tell him my plans "you're very welcome, Billy looking forward to your visit". The trip to Holy Head was uneventful as was the crossing off the Irish sea to Dublin. We sailed through customs with a look and a nod and welcome to Dublin. From the docks we drove down along the Liffey, traffic was very heavy but once we crossed over to the south side of the city in no time, we arrived at the B&B.

Getting out of the car I suddenly transported back in time. The street where I spent some years of my childhood was but 'a stones throw' way and the school where I began at the age of three was facing me on the other side of the street. How canny was that! Of all the B&Bs that my nephew could have chosen in Dublin I found myself in the place of my childhood. While my nephew and his girlfriend booked into the B&B I took a stroll down memory lane and yes, the house and school hadn't change at all. My Irish nephew and his wife Frances soon arrived and off we drove to Waterford. A very pleasant 10 days enjoying Irish hospitality, great cuisine, scenic walks, and of course a pint of Guinness and a drop of the hard stuff.

Fr Bill

Parish Choir

The next meetings of our Parish Choir are Monday 25th September, Tuesday 24th October & Monday 27th November at 7pm in St Bede's Church. As usual all are welcome, even if you have not sung before, or been a part of this group previously, or you are only available to come along occasionally. You will be made very welcome!

Works at St Bede's

This week, we needed to hire some scaffolding to attend to the sanctuary roof. We have taken advantage of this costly hire by suspending the new sanctuary lamp, paid through generous donations, above the Tabernacle. We have also relocated the crucifix and installed the Marian Sanctuary Lamp from OLPS.
Fr Thomas

The Dreaded Topic of Money!

Firstly, can I begin by saying that in my time here as your Parish Priest I have been amazed by your generosity. I boast to my fellow priests that the parishioners of St Wilfrid's are kind and generous! One of the hats that I wear here is to safeguard the financial security of our church sites, and as we approach the autumn and winter months, the cost of heating the churches weighs heavy on my mind. Also, the constant bills that we pay to ensure our churches meet all health and safety legislation, the cost of maintaining four large sites, together with general costs and making our churches look loved, cared for and beautiful is a big responsibility.

The average weekly collection is:

St. Bede £1600, St. Basil £250, St. John Fisher £160, St. Michael £350

(Weekly Direct Debit from whole parish - £890)

Average weekly collection for the whole parish - £2360

This does not meet our weekly expenditure.

We are simply asking you all to reflect on what you give each week could you increase what you put in, even just by a couple of pounds? If we all did, the difference would help. Please, just think about it and if you can, great, if you cannot, thank you for what you give. Money is never easy to talk about, it is awkward and slightly embarrassing, so please read this notice in the spirit which it is written and help and give if you can.

Fr Mark

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

R.C.I.A.

Are you thinking about becoming a Roman Catholic? Would you like to know more? Would you like a space and time to ask questions? Are you a Catholic who wishes to know more about your faith?

The R.C.I.A. is a process of accompanying people in their faith journey, there is no expectation or pressure, rather a 'walking with' model of deepening faith and exploring the vast treasures of the Roman Catholic Church.

If you, or you know someone who is interested in starting this time of discernment then please pass your name, address and telephone number into the parish office or e mail stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk and one of the R.C.I.A. Team will contact you, answer any questions you may have and let you know when the group will meet!

There will be a Taster Evening in the Guild Hall at 7.45pm on 20th September 2023 for all who are interested in joining us. Make a leap of faith and start a wonderful journey!

Requiescant in pace

Joan Kelly
Thomas Weaver
Elizabeth Bellard
Raymond (Ray) Ellis
Evelyn Saltman
Terence Delaney

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede: Terry & Joan Hayes
St Michael: Marie Elizabeth Golson
St John Fisher: Susan & Roy Warburton
St Basil: Joseph Davies

Families of Parishes

Earlier this year, members of the Deanery Synodal Council held meetings in all the parishes of the Deanery to consider how we might organise ourselves to better work together. Three 'Families of Parishes' emerged from these meetings: the parishes of Widnes and Cronton (St Wilfrid and Holy Family), the parishes of West Warrington (Sacred Heart & St Alban, St Joseph and St Paul of the Cross), and the parishes of East Warrington (Blessed James Bell, St Peter & St Michael, and St Stephen). In the not-too-distant future, you will see a display of these three 'Families of Parishes' in your church.

Canon Dave Heywood, Dean

Warrington and Widnes Deanery Mass

On **Friday 15th September** at **12 noon** the deanery priests will gather for Mass at **St. John Fisher Church** for Holy Mass and afterwards they will have their monthly deanery meeting.

Please make a special effort to attend this Mass as it is a time to pray for the whole deanery of Warrington and Widnes and for the ongoing collaboration between priests and people.

St. Bernadette – pray for us!

This year in Lourdes, Fr Thomas and I bought a new statue of St. Bernadette for the grotto at St Michael's, after the previous one was stolen last year.

Thankfully, through the contacts of Pat Naughton, the statue was transported and delivered by one of the youth coaches to Widnes. Stephen Fraser kindly cemented St. Bernadette in place this week and now she is resplendent looking at the statue of Our Blessed Lady, may she intercede for us all.

Thank you to Pat and Stephen for their kindness and next time you are in St. Michael's, go over and say a prayer!

Fr Mark

The Knights Choir

We are seeking to recruit new members to help with the work we do in our community. We are best known for the support we give to bereaved families at funerals. However, we also entertain at local venues, fifties and sixties classics feature greatly in our repertoire.

Last year we raised over £4.000 for local charities. If you would like to enjoy us, making new friends and helping the local community, please consider joining us. No audition required, uniform is provided, and all engagements are within the Widnes area. We practice most Wednesday mornings in St John Fisher Hall. For details, please phone Brendon 0151 420 0611 or Roy 0151 424 1924.

Heritage Talk at St Marie's - Saturday 16th September at 2pm

St Marie's church is just one of several beautiful buildings that make up architect Edward Pugin's body of work. St Marie's Heritage Group are delighted to welcome eminent Pugin expert Dr Gerard Hyland to talk to us about the work of Edward Pugin and specifically the design of St Marie's church. You are all welcome to join us for this event.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	10th Sept	Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Roy & Susan Warburton (Golden Wed)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Patricia Mary King (Anniversary)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Frances Walsh (Lately Dead)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
Monday	11th Sept	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Lil Nelson (24 th Anniversary)
Tuesday	12th Sept	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition & Rosary		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jonathan Hall
Wednesday	13th Sept	Memorial of St John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor	
18.30	Exposition & Evening Prayer		
19.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Marie Cullerton (Remembrance)
Thursday	14th Sept	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	
11.30	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Barbara & Jim Norris (Wed Ann)
Friday	15th Sept	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12 noon	Deanery Mass	St John Fisher	I. Kitty Donovan (LD) II. Thinking of You III. Annie Crocker (LD) IV. Recovery from Illness
Saturday	16th Sept	Memorial of Ss Cornelius, and Cyprian, Martyrs	
10.00	Bereavement Mass	St Bede	Those suffering with grief
10.30	Confessions		
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Wally Hurstfield (LD)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	Christina Kenny
Sunday	17th Sept	Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Christine Bradshaw (LD)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Anthony Karalius (80 th Birthday Rem)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Marie Jones (LD)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	June Rolt (Anniversary)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Corcoran (LD)