



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



29th June 2025

Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul (Year C)

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Psalm Response

'From all my terrors the LORD set me free'.

The Innocents

The Church is emphatically for peace in all places and for all people and has time and again advocated vocally for the prevention or cessation of war. However, from Palestine to Myanmar, Haiti to Sudan, the world is experiencing the highest number of conflicts since the World War II.

In 2024 the United Nations reported that 19 per cent of the world's children – over 473 million – now live in conflict zones, and 47.2 million have been displaced by conflict and violence. Thousands of children have been killed and injured in conflict zones such as in Gaza and Ukraine. The UN verified more child casualties during the first 9 months of 2024 than during all of 2023. Very sadly, reports for 2025 will undoubtedly describe a worsening situation. I suggest to you that these children are innocents.

In Catholicism, the term 'Innocents' commonly refers to the Holy Innocents, the male children in Bethlehem who were killed by King Herod's order, as recounted in the Gospel of Matthew. These children are honoured as the first martyrs for Christ, even though they were too young to have professed faith or be baptized. I suggest to you that the children suffering and dying in our modern day conflicts are equally 'innocent' as those slaughtered in biblical times. In your prayers this week please acknowledge the suffering of these innocents, seek their protection and healing, and ask for an end to conflicts.

Deacon Paul Rooney

Lourdes - Pilgrim's meeting, petitions and prayers

We will hold a meeting at 7pm on Thursday 3rd July in St. Bede's presbytery for those joining us on the Lourdes Pilgrimage. At this meeting we will discuss options for transport to and from Liverpool John Lennon airport, the schedule for flights and activities for the pilgrimage.

Please join us. If you are unable to make this meeting, please let the parish office know and we will contact you. For our parishioners, if you have any petitions for our pilgrimage, or want us to light a candle etc. please drop a note into the parish office. **St. Bernadette, pray for us!**

Deacon Paul and Denise Roberts

Annual Lourdes Mass – Sunday 13th July at 5:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King

Are you going to Lourdes this year? Are you not going to Lourdes this year?

Well, you are invited to come to the Lourdes Mass on the 13th July at the Cathedral. Come and experience the joy and the prayer to God through the intercession of the Lady of Lourdes.

Our Lady of Lourdes – pray for us! St. Bernadette – pray for us!

Catholic Education in Widnes

Secondary Catholic education is so important, and we are blessed to have St Peter and Paul Catholic High School to serve our young people when they leave Catholic Primary Education. As part of their mission, they seek to build on the ethos of our primary schools to offer rounded and excellent learning, in the Catholic tradition.

Our Catholic schools are stronger when we work together — united in our mission to form young people in the image of Christ, supported by our wonderful parish and link priests, and grounded in Gospel values.

You are invited to an open evening on **Thursday 3rd July from 4pm – 7pm** to experience some of school life at St. Peter and Paul.

‘With God all things are possible’

Garden Update – St Bede

The borders along the path are now finished, they are planted with colourful perennials which will flower each year. More flowering Cherry Trees have been planted to frame the church entrance on both sides of the garden in pink blossom, using the same variety as the existing older trees to match.

Once cleared of weed the bare soil will be sown in the autumn to extend the lawn which will see the restoration of the garden complete.

Keith McCann

Novena Thanks

Thank you to all who took part in the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus over the past 10 days, whether you attended the Novena Masses or followed the novena at home. I am sure it was time of grace for our whole parish.

A big thank you to all the deanery priests who gave their time to share the fruits of their prayer and contemplation and gave us different insights into the wonderful love of God expressed in the heart of Jesus.

Sacred Heart of Jesus - have mercy on us!

DBS Rechecks for St Wilfrid's Parish Roles and SVP Members

The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team has now given us the go ahead to do DBS rechecks for those people whose parish role necessitates them having a DBS check, and whose previous DBS check was done before twelve months ago. We have a tight timescale for this so we would appreciate your full cooperation to ensure they are done within this timeframe. This applies to Eucharistic Ministers, Chaperones, SVP members, Catechists, Sacristans, Altar Servers over the age of 16, Children's Liturgy Leaders, Knights of St Columba and people in certain roles for Lourdes trips.

All applicants must bring with them 3 documents proving their identity, for verification by the parish safeguarding team. Examples of evidence are:- a current passport, a UK birth certificate issued soon after the birth, a photo card driving licence, a bank statement issued within the last 3 months (an online one is not acceptable), a utility bill issued within the last 3 months (again an online one is not acceptable) – these must have a current address on them, a council tax bill/statement issued within the last 12 months or a marriage certificate. One of the documents must have a date of birth on it and you cannot bring more than one of each type.

If you have an email address you will complete a DBS 3c form, a written agreement form and a code of conduct, plus provide the 3 ID documents. If you do not have an email address you will complete a DBS 4, DBS 17 and DBS 3a form, as well as a written agreement form and a code of conduct, plus provide the 3 ID documents.

Sessions for the rechecks will be at the Parish Office on **Monday 30th June 2 – 4pm** for Catechists and Sacristans; **Wednesday 2nd July 6 – 8pm** for Eucharistic Ministers and Chaperones; **Saturday 5th July 12 noon to 1.30pm** for Knights of St Columba, Lourdes staff and Altar Servers over the age of 16. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

A current DBS is essential, without one, you are unable to continue in your ministry at any level.

Pauline Ruth, Pauline Rolt, Carol Murray and Fr. Mark (St. Wilfrid's Safeguarding Team)

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

A few people have expressed an interest in serving our community as a special minister of the Eucharist. Could those people, also anyone else who is considering this ministry, please pass your name, address and e mail address into the Parish Office for Dcn. Paul's attention. He will then contact you. Before we move forward, we need to complete all safeguarding procedures and this important ministry needs some catechesis and training, so that we can all understand what we are doing and why we are doing it. This will be given before you begin your work in the community. Thank you, as ever for your generosity and kindness in serving your brothers and sisters.

Pause and Reflect

Last week I shared some figures with you regarding the number and, importantly, the age profile of the priests in our Archdiocese. When Pope Paul II visited Liverpool in 1982, which many of you will remember, the number of priests serving in Widnes was 21. That is the same number of priests under the age of 50 who now serve the whole of the Archdiocese of Liverpool

Pray for our priests and pray that we, as the Catholic community in Widnes, can adapt positively to the challenges and opportunities that this will present us with in the future.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	29th June	Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mary Timperley
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Nancy Jordan
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Julie Littler
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Thomas & Marie Boden
Monday	30th June	Ferial	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Sharon Margaret Doyle
Tuesday	1st July	Ferial	
10.00	Funeral Service	St Michael	John Patrick McCann
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Sr Alice Mary Traynor
Wednesday	2nd July	Ferial	
10.30	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Thomas Lyons
Thursday	3rd July	Feast of St Thomas	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Basil	Fr Bill Murphy
Friday	4th July	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Michael Donegan
Saturday	5th July	Ferial	
10.00	Holy Mass For The Bereaved Followed by Confessions.	St Basil	Stephen Cosgrove Dr Athos Capvani
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Parishioners
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Joan & William Davies
Sunday	6th July	Ferial	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Steve Cawley
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Gerald Quinn
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Micheal & Winifred Butler
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jenni Baker

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Mary & Joseph Davies
St Basil:	Joan & Arthur Wilcox
St John Fisher:	Vera Smith
St Michael:	Michael & Geraldine Wilcox

Rest in Peace

Marie Thompson, Gerald Martin,
Peter James McGrath & Annette Vaughan,
Paul John Willcox,
James Blong & Gladys Hunt.
May the Angels lead them into Paradise!