



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times (Year A)

12th July 2026

Parish Office:

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

Second collection next week is for: Priests in Retirement

Parish Clergy: 0151 422 1772

Rev. Father Mark Moran (Parish Priest, Moderator).

Rev. Father Peter F. Ross (Parochial Vicar).

Rev. Deacon Paul Rooney.

Rev. Deacon Paul Whitehead.

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Psalm Response

"Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit".

Gospel Acclamation Verse

"The seed is the word of God, Christ the Sower; all who find him will live for ever".

From Rag Rolling to Riches

If there's one thing I know for sure, it's this: things speak differently to folk. I love to watch home restoration videos on social media. Time and again, while scrolling through these videos, the same narrative, with different people, appears: young couple moves into house, young couple takes up hallway carpet, young couple discovers minton tile/parquet floor and says with horror, "*how on earth could anyone have covered this?*"

When I lived in Derby, I was horrified to learn that the City's only Georgian square had been demolished to make way for a concrete ring road in the 1960s. A hideous, bizarre concrete ring road to me, but a terrific, innovative ring road to many. On another level, do you remember 'rag-roll'? Once very popular, now not very popular at all. I'd encourage you to google 'Salford Cathedral Restoration 2026'. This Cathedral was re-ordered in the 1970s, with many of its intricate Gothic features painted over or simply smashed up. What was left was a radically pared-back interior, devoid of detail and colour. The current restoration amounts to a complete U-turn, with the detail and colour now restored, or reinstated, at great expense. Was it hoped that smashing up altars and statues in the 1970s would trigger a revival? Well, we all know for a fact that the revival did not come. If we are to take Salford Cathedral as a case in question, we would now be led to believe that detail and colour will trigger a revival. Will it come this time around? Back in the 1970s, the modern world was not listening. Is the post-post-modern world listening now in the 2020s? Behind all of this is a call to authenticity. Tastes change from person to person and from second to second. Indeed, social relevance will be ever outlying for the Church. So, let's be who we're called to be and stop trying to look more like everything the Church is not meant to be. May we hear Bishop Erik Varden, who gave the Papal Retreat in Lent and encourages us: "*to know the saving power of Christ, the same today, yesterday, and always, yet making all things new.*"

Fr. Peter

Mass Times – Summer Schedule

Commencing 1st/2nd August till 29th/30th August weekend Masses will be as follows in the Parish of St. Wilfrid.

Saturday Vigil Mass

4.30pm – St. Basil

Sunday

9am – St. Bede

10.15am – St. Michael

4pm – St. John Fisher

Please note that this is just for **one month** and then the timetable will go back to normal until St. Bede's Church is out of action for the restoration. The Vision Group are endeavoring to plan for this, so that all the parish is served during this time.

Parish Vision Group

SSPX and FSSP

You may have heard that a conservative Catholic group, the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX), has been excommunicated from the Church. The group incurred excommunication because they ordained four bishops without the permission of the Pope. Bishops are appointed by the Pope. To do otherwise fragments the unity of the Church. Pope Leo pleaded with the SSPX not to go ahead with the ordinations but to continue dialogue with the Vatican. Unfortunately, the SSPX went ahead with the ordinations and so automatically incurred excommunication as outlined in Canon Law. Vatican authorities are urging faithful Catholics not to attend the SSPX's churches, chapels and Mass centers lest they too fall under the same penalty of excommunication.

The SSPX is known for its celebration of the Mass and the Sacraments using the liturgical books in force prior to the Second Vatican Council. Happily, for those who are attached to the traditional Latin rites, here in the Archdiocese of Liverpool we have the FSSP (the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter), based at St Mary's Shrine in Warrington, which was founded by Pope St John Paul II for this very purpose. The FSSP is in full communion with the Church, accepts the Second Vatican Council and, as we have seen at our most recent Deanery Mass, is very much part of the life of our local Deanery.

Canon Dave Heywood, VF

Annual Lourdes Mass 2026

The Annual Lourdes Mass is a beautiful, uplifting celebration that unites the community in faith and prayer. Whether you are traveling on the upcoming pilgrimage or joining from home, your presence is welcome. The Mass takes place on **Sunday 19th July at 3pm** at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool and the principal celebrant is Archbishop John Sherrington. At this Mass you will be able to offer your petitions to Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette and pray with those who are travelling to Lourdes.

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

Lourdes at Home - Letters for the Sick and Housebound

To all Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist:

Please collect invitation letters from the church sacristy and deliver these letters to our sick and housebound parishioners during your upcoming Holy Communion visits.

The letters invite our parish family members to our '**Lourdes at Home**' day on the **Wednesday 22nd July** at St. John Fisher Church. This special day runs in solidarity with the Archdiocesan pilgrimage.

Fr. Mark and the Liturgy Group

Happy Birthday Fr. Mark AND Happy Anniversary Fr. Peter

This coming Tuesday Fr. Mark celebrates his 54th birthday, he says he doesn't look it! Have a lovely birthday Fr. Mark and have a wonderful year! Happy 2nd anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on Monday, God bless you!

Prayer Petitions – Lourdes 2026

You are invited to offer a prayer petition during the Archdiocese of Liverpool Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026. Your prayer petition will be taken to Lourdes by Rev. Deacon Paul Rooney. Lourdes is one of the most significant pilgrimage sites in Catholicism, renowned as a center for miraculous healing and spiritual renewal. Please complete the prayer intention form available at the back of each church and return it to the parish Office in an envelope marked 'Lourdes Prayer Petition' not later than **Sunday 19th July**. Please do not put any money in your petition envelope; **however**, if you want to donate towards a Parish Prayer Candle, please place your money in a separate envelope marked **Candle**.
Dcn Paul Rooney

Pause for Thought...

Many of you will remember the recent photograph of the priests in the newsletter who were here in Widnes on the eve of St Pope John Paul II's visit to this country in 1982. Parishioners enjoyed recognising familiar faces among the priests who had served this area so faithfully. Many found it hard to believe that, just over 40 years ago, there were so many priests living out their ministry in this town. It is a sobering thought that today we have only Fr Mark and Fr Peter serving here as priests.

Looking Ahead

The question many people are asking is this: what will the number of priests be not only in the next 40 years, but in the next 20, 10, or even five years? How will this change the way we organise ourselves, worship together, and live as a parish community?

The Facts We Must Face

Within 10 years, the number of priests in the archdiocese under the age of 75 will be **54** serving across the whole of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. The number under the age of 60 will be considerably less.

Responding with Faith and Courage

We must keep these hard facts in our hearts and minds as we journey along the road of inevitable change. This change will come not only to Widnes, but to the whole of the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

As one great philosopher is credited with saying:

*"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old,
but on building the new."*

Young Catholics in Widnes

We meet **this Sunday, 12th July, at 18:00 at St. Basil**, for an evening with the many 1st Class Relics and heritage items of the Parish. Peter McCann (Parish Archivist) will be bringing and showing our various relics and precious items and taking us on a tour through them. There will be an opportunity to venerate these holy relics too. You won't want to miss this! Afterwards, we'll have some refreshments and do a quiz (with a twist).

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	12th July	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Michael O'Grady
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael Clare Rainford
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede Brian Glover
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Elizabeth Matthews
Monday	13th July	Monday Week 15 in Ordinary Time
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer	
09.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil Mass Association Members
Tuesday	14th July	Tuesday Week 15 in Ordinary Time
11.30	Exposition & Rosary	
12noon	Holy Mass	St. Bede Joan McCallum
Wednesday	15th July	Memorial of St Bonaventure
11.00	Requiem Mass	St. Basil Denise Britton
Thursday	16th July	Thursday Week 15 in Ordinary Time
11.30	Exposition & Rosary	
12noon	Holy Mass	St. Michael Fr. John Southworth
Friday	17th July	Friday Week 15 in Ordinary Time
10.00	Requiem Mass	St. Michael Kathleen Baker
Saturday	18th July	Vigil of Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times
16.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil Thomas & Marie Boden
18.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher Catherine Hamilton
Sunday	19th July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Parishioners
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael Fr. Peter McGiveron
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede Hildegarde Murphy
15.00	Lourdes Mass	Cathedral Sick and Housebound
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede Les Dean

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St. Bede:	Thanksgiving
St. Basil:	Fr Peter Ross
St. John Fisher:	Frances Walsh
St. Michael:	Linda Dunne

Rest in Peace

Robert Taylor
Robert O'Shaughnessy
Julia Gibbs

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!