



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



22nd June 2025

Corpus Christi (Year C)

Spiritan Appeal raised £2357.32

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Psalm Response

'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek'.

What are war and peace?

The news is full of awful accounts of war, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia. The horror of these situations is undeniable. They have caused me to reflect on what we understand as war and peace.

The Catholic Church has a profound and multifaceted understanding of war and peace, shaped by centuries of theological reflection, social teaching, and historical experiences. One of the early Church Fathers, St. Augustine, argued that war can be morally justified under certain conditions. Importantly, he drew a clear distinction between just and unjust war and had a clear focus on the necessity and proportionality of response. These moral implications remain points of debate and contention in our modern world.

Peace can be both positive and negative. It is negative in that it is the absence of war and positive in the sense that it is the absence of the causes of war. Albert Einstein, the famous scientist and peace activist believed that peace can only be achieved by an honest attempt to create mutual trust.

Pope Leo XIV recently stated that authentic peace "takes shape from the ground up" when the differences and conflicts they entail "are not set aside but acknowledged, understood, and surmounted." A year before this statement, Pope Francis said that building peace begins by "standing alongside victims, seeing things from their point of view."

Perhaps when we read the news of the many conflicts going on in our world, we might consider the victims, the protagonists and their arguments using the 'lens' of these understandings of war and peace? Then we can pray for global healing, asking for grace to mend broken relationships and restore peace in parts of the world suffering conflict.

Deacon Paul Rooney

Novena Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O my Jesus, you have said: *"Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you."* Behold I knock, I seek and ask for your help in my need that you may hear my petition. Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you. O my Jesus, you have said:

"Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name he will give it to you."

" Behold, in your name, I ask the Father to hear my petition.

(In silence mention your personal petition)

Sacred Heart of Jesus - I place all my trust in you!

Immaculate Heart of Mary – Pray for me now and at the hour of my death.

Sacramental Programme – Catechists Meeting

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday 25th June at 12noon** to 'debrief' and reflect upon the Sacramental Programme this year. We shall meet at St. Bede's Presbytery and a light lunch will be served. Please make every effort to attend!

Thank You

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all who sent prayer cards and messages of support to me during my recent illness in hospital. It was really humbling to know that I had the support of so many good people. God Bless you all.

Terry Hayes

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)

Date for your Diary

Catholic Social Action is a faith-based response to an invitation to respect the dignity of every human being and live in solidarity with others. Are you involved with or interested in 'Catholic Social Action'? If the answer is yes, then sign up to the free Archdiocesan conference '*Building stronger communities*' on **Friday 11th July** in the St. Margaret Clitherow Centre, Liverpool. The event starts at 9.30am and finishes at 4pm. It includes a series of fabulous speakers and exciting workshops. Oh, and a free lunch! Please contact the Parish Office to register your interest and we shall book you a place and arrange transport.

Deacon Paul

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.

Statistics for the Liverpool Archdiocesan Clergy

I was at a meeting for the clergy last week and these figures were given to us, to show the current age range of the clergy in our Archdiocese. I thought it would be good to share these figures with you to ponder and reflect upon.

Age Range	Active Priests in Range	Retired Priests in Range
25:29	1	
30:34	4	
35:39	1	
40:44	6	
45:49	9	
50:54	9	
55:59	12	
60:64	21	1
65:69	17	
70:74	22	6
75:79	6	4
80:84	5	9
85:89	1	10
90:94		3
95:99		4

Average Age			
Total Priests	114	37	151
Under 75	102	7	
Under 65	63	1	
Under 60	42		
Under 50	21		
Under 40	6		

Includes 5 retired Bishops

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	22nd June	The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	David Byrne
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Christine Ratcliffe & Gladys Holland
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
No 4pm Mass this week.			
Monday	23rd June	Ferial	
19.00	Novena Mass	St John Fisher	James McCann Kevin & Breege Butler
Tuesday	24th June	Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist	
19.00	Novena Mass	St Basil	Michael Devonport Anne Conroy
Wednesday	25th June	Ferial	
19.00	Novena Mass	St Michael	Mary Davies Patricia Waller
Thursday	26th June	Ferial	
19.00	Novena Mass	St John Fisher	John Joseph Mulroy Leah Sadler John Glover
Friday	27th June	Solemnity Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	
19.00	Novena Mass	St Basil	Joe Houghton Emmanuel Mamezur Denis Fitzsimmons
Saturday	28th June	Vigil of the Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Dan Donovan
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Una Talbot
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

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Special Intention
St Basil:	Agnes Turner
St John Fisher:	Fr. Mark and Fr. Peter
St Michael:	Healing

Rest in Peace

Sharon Doyle, John Patrick McCann,
Thomas Lyons, John James Connolly,
Marie Thompson, Gerald Martin,
Peter James McGrath & James Blong.
May the Angels lead them into Paradise!