

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

23rd November 2025

Parish Office:

St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 6EL

Parish Clergy:

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator) 0151 422 1772
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Psalm Response

'Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord'

Alleluia Verse

**Blesses is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!**

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

Feast of Christ the King

The Feast of Christ the King invites us to pause and recognise a truth that often gets buried beneath the noise and pace of our world: Christ's kingship is unlike any earthly power. His throne is a cross, His crown is made of thorns, and His command is love. He does not rule by domination, fear, or force, but by the quiet strength of humility and self-giving service.

When we hear "king," we may imagine authority, control, or grandeur. Yet Christ redefines kingship entirely. His kingdom belongs to the poor, the meek, the merciful. His reign is found in forgiveness, in defending the vulnerable, and in welcoming those the world pushes aside. Instead of demanding tribute, He gives Himself fully for the sake of His people.

To proclaim Christ as King is to acknowledge that His way is the way of true life. It means allowing His peace to calm our fears, His truth to shape our conscience, and His mercy to transform our relationships. It means trusting that the One who defeated death does not lose sight of us in our struggles.

As the liturgical year ends with this solemn feast, we are reminded that history is moving toward Him, and our lives, too, find their meaning in Him. May we have the courage to let Christ reign in our hearts, our homes, and our world—not by force, but by a daily "yes" to love.

Fr. Mark

St. Peter and Paul – Senior Citizen Christmas Party Invitation

The school community at St. Peter and Paul Catholic High School would like to invite any senior citizen to a Christmas Party! It will take place on **Friday 28th November** at **1.15pm** in their school hall, the party continues till **3.15pm**. There will be bingo, food and drink, a quiz and the students will perform some wonderful festive entertainment. An offering to cover expenses will be just £3. If you would like to attend, please call 0151 424 2139 and you can obtain a ticket. It will be a wonderful afternoon of friendship and Advent celebrations.

Fr. Philip's Show – 'Heroes and Villains'

Just 2 tickets remain for Fr. Philip's Show in Manchester! We always have a wonderful evening together, such fun on the coach and then in to see a fantastic show with a full live orchestra. The show is on **Tuesday 25th November** at St. Dunstan's Parish Hall in Mostyn, Manchester. We shall leave St. Bede's Church at **6pm** and arrive home after **11pm**. The cost of the coach and an excellent seat in the hall is £25pp. Please let the parish office know as soon as possible if you require a ticket.

St. Wilfrid's Foundation of the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)

UCM would like to invite you to join them on the afternoon of **Monday, 24 November 2025, 1.30pm to 3.00pm** for their Christmas Bingo. There will be refreshments and a raffle as well as Bingo, so don't forget your purses! Come win some Christmas items to use as presents, as well!

St. Marie's Heritage Group

The St Marie's Heritage Group are delighted to welcome back the wonderful Parish Choir of St Wilfrid who will be leading us all in Christmas Carols and a singalong at St Marie's Tuesday **9th December at 7pm**. St Marie's, Lugsdale Road, Widnes. WA8 6DB. It's free to attend, to reserve your place, please call (01928) 592 405 or e-mail heritage@haltonsthelensvca.org.uk

'I am Mark' – Sunday 30th November, 6pm, St. Basil

This is a wonderful opportunity that has been offered to us, it is a one man 'show' of the Gospel of St. Mark. It will lead us into the Scriptures and so into the season of Advent. It is a free event, and tickets will be available after all **Masses this weekend**. This is just so that we know how many people intend to come. This performance was given last year in the Warrington part of the deanery, and I am told that it was amazing!

Our Pilgrims Venture Forth

On Thursday, 12 of our 18-35 Group set off on their pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham, they will gather for 7am Mass at St. Bede to which you are all welcome to attend and then they will board the minibus and heading south! This is a real milestone for this group, so ably led by Fr. Peter, as it shows a real commitment from them to their own faith development, and from us as the parish community who have supported them both spiritually and financially in their endeavors. I am sure we will be remembered in their prayers, and they will be remembered in ours. Updates will be posted on the parish Facebook page 'Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes' and on Instagram @young_catholics_in_widnes. **Our Lady of Walsingham – pray for us!**

Music Ministry Accompaniment and Training

A date for the diary for all musicians and singers! We have managed to book Jo Boyce and the CJM music team to lead a day for our music ministries on **Saturday 7th March 2026** – this will give refreshment in the important role you have in raising hearts and minds to God through the gift of music.

Advent Timetable

Advent begins on the **29th/30th November**, the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the first season of the Catholic liturgical year, a sacred time of waiting, preparation, and hope. It is a four-week journey that leads up to Christmas, celebrating both the first coming of Jesus Christ at Bethlehem and anticipating His second coming in glory at the end of time.

The name *Advent* comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” In Greek, the corresponding word is *parousia*, which is also used in Scripture to describe the Second Coming of Christ (see Matthew 24:3).

Thus, Advent has a dual character:

1. Looking back to the historical birth of Jesus — God made flesh.
2. Looking forward to the future coming of Christ — the fulfillment of all things in Him.

We have many things on offer to everyone in our parish to deepen our understanding and so enter into this holy season with devotion.

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Advent Holy Hours - Monday 1st December, 7pm, St. John Fisher and Monday 15th December, 7pm, St. Basil

Fr. Mark and Dcn. Paul will lead us in a reflective Holy Hour at two points in our Advent journey. Come and 'be still with the Lord'.

Taizé Prayer, 'Waiting the Night is Far Spent', Wednesday 3rd December, 7pm, St. John Fisher

Come and spend time relaxing in prayer, with music to guide your heart to Jesus.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Monday 8th December, 7pm, St. Bede

Fr. Peter will preside at a Solemn Mass celebrating the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Advent Carol Service – Sunday 14th December, 3pm, St. Basil

With joy and in anticipation we shall sing to the Coming King, that we may adore Him in spirit and in truth and then have a mince pie and be together with some of the children from our schools and fellow parishioners.

Advent Reconciliation Service – Thursday 18th December, 7pm, St. John Fisher

Come and hear the words, 'your sins are forgiven', so that you may welcome Jesus in your heart and home this Christmas.

Are you interested in becoming a Deacon?

The deacon embodies the spirit of service and compassion in the Church. Think of someone who is dedicated and humble, uniquely ordained to help both the spiritual needs and the practical needs of a community. As a general rule, candidates for the diaconate are expected to be mature men, often between the ages of 30 and 65. If they are married, they need to be in a stable sacramental marriage. As ordained ministers, deacons are one of the three major orders of the Church, along with priests and bishops. You'll be able to serve your local community and become an integral part of it if you become a deacon. The journey to discern if you have a calling to the diaconate involves asking yourself whether you have a genuine desire to serve God and His Church in this capacity. We invite you to join us at an enquirers information evening to take a closer look at the role of deacons within the Catholic Church, how their ministry plays out in everyday life in our parishes, to provide information and to assist your prayerful discernment for the diaconate. **7.00pm Tuesday 25th November 2025** St Oswald's Parish Hall, Chapel Lane, Longton PR4 5EB

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	23rd November	The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Nuala Lennon
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Danny Leech
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jimmy Cassidy
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Private Intention (LD)
Monday	24th November	Memorial of St Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions	
13.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Patricia Mitchell
Tuesday	25th November	Ferial	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Barbara Kinsella
11.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Thomas Stevens
Wednesday	26th November	Ferial	
10am	Requiem Mass	St. John Fisher	Peter Hill
Thursday	27th November	Ferial	
07.00	Walsingham Departure Mass	St. Bede	Edward Mulroy
	<i>(All are welcome to attend)</i>		
Friday	28th November	Ferial	
12.00	Deanery Mass	St. Stephen's, Orford, WA2 9HS Mrs. Kay Pye	
Saturday	29th November	Vigil of First Sunday of Advent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Thomas Arthur & Marie Boden
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Baby George O'Grady
Sunday	30th November	First Sunday of Advent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Joe Houghton
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Tex Mercer
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	David Lyn Syers
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners

Advent Raffle

Raffle tickets will be available for you take home next week and sell them to your friends and family! The raffle will be drawn on 21st December in time for Christmas!

Sanctuary Lamp

*The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days
for your intention.*

St Bede: **Anthony Austin**
 St Basil: **Syd Rubin**
 St John Fisher: **Niamh Rooney**
 St Michael: **Elizabeth & Joseph Farley**

Rest in Peace

**John Barrow, Patricia Wright,
 Paul Geaney, Elizabeth Beattie
 John Glover, Syd Rubin
 & Patrick Kirwan**

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!