

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

7th December 2025

Next week second collection is for SVP

Parish Office:
St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
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Parish Clergy:

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Psalm Response

'In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever'.

Alleluia Verse

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God'.

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

General Absolution – A Missed Opportunity of Grace and Forgiveness

Despite what well-meaning folks may have told us, 'general absolution' (Rite III of the Sacrament of Penance) in Advent and Lent does not bring about the same effect as individual confession.

The only situations wherein 'general absolution' is effective, are those which are considered "immineat periculum mortis" (when danger of death is imminent) and also when the number of penitents outweighs the number of priests. For example, when we visit people at the end of their life, we justifiably administer 'general absolution'. Also, let's say we were the only priests aboard a sinking ship - we could administer it then too and rightly. The Church provides for emergencies.

Thankfully, at the moment, there is no major threat to life for the majority of us and there is no parish in the Archdiocese of Liverpool that is so remote, and so populous with penitents, that would warrant said service, as we have around 100 priests in active ministry and you can get anywhere in the diocese by car in around an hour (excluding the Isle of Man).

We all still need to go to confession, even if we have gone to a service that offers 'general absolution'. The effects of individual confession are the forgiveness of sin and the outpouring of grace to help us avoid sin in the future. There isn't anything 'general' about the love and mercy of God. God loves us personally in the context of a steadfast relationship, not a one-size-fits-all, mass-produced and general love.

As your priests, we urge you not to go to general absolution and instead to come and encounter the God of mercy and compassion, in confession.

Fr. Mark & Fr. Peter

Heartfelt Thanks

Fr. Mark and his family would like to thank all those who have offered prayer and condolences at the death of his mum on **Saturday 29th November**. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 12th December** and Fr. Mark knows that you will remember him as he offers his Mum back to the God who created her. May God bless you all.

Advent 2025

Monday 8th December, Solemn Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

At 7pm at St. Bede's Church Fr. Peter will preside at a Mass in honour of Our Blessed Lady, all are welcome to come and ask for her intercession.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

4.30pm – St. Bede

4.30pm – St. Basil

6pm – St. John Fisher

6pm – St. Michael

12 Midnight – St. Bede

Christmas Day

9am – St. Bede

10.15am – St. Michael

11am – St. Bede

Boxing Day

12noon – St. John Fisher

Parish Carol Concert

Please make a note in your diary! The Annual Parish Carol Concert takes place at 3pm on **Sunday 14th December** at St. Basil's Church. The children from some of our primary schools, the Widnes Catholic Children's Choir and students from St. Peter and Paul Catholic High School will be present to offer some Christmas magic. The Parish Choir will be there to lead us in welcoming the Christ Child into our parish, into, our hearts and into our homes. Please come along!

Advent Raffle

Raffle tickets are available for you take home and sell them to your friends and family! The raffle will be drawn on **21st December** in time for Christmas! Fantastic prizes and hampers!

St. Wilfrid's Parish Calendar 2026

Stop the press! We have purchased some 2026 calendars of our wonderful parish. Each month there are different photographs of our churches, inside and out. They are just £5 each and can be purchased at the back of church. We did not get lots this year as we were unsure how many people would like one, so be quick and you will not be disappointed!

All proceeds from the sale of the calendars will go to the upkeep of all our churches. What a lovely stocking filler it would be.

Advent Candle

Today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath. **The Bethlehem Candle (Faith)** The second candle represents faith and preparation. It recalls Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and encourages us to ready our hearts for Christ's arrival. As we look at the Advent candle growing in strength as each candle is lit, let us pray that our faith is strengthened and we know more and more, that Jesus, Emmanuel, our God, is with us!

Flower Demonstration

Festive treats are in store at a flower demonstration at **7.30pm on Wednesday, 10th December** at Farnworth Methodist Church Hall on Derby Road. Acclaimed floral artist Debbie Davies presents 'Charismata' alongside a bakery and gift stall. Visitors can pay on the door. **Barbara Jordan**

No 4pm Mass on Sunday 14th December

Please note that due to the Parish Carol Concert there will not be a 4pm Mass on the above date.

Advent Appeal – Trinity Safe Space

Instead of buying something for a friend or family member for Christmas that they do not need, why not buy an item for someone that really does?

Trinity Safe Space charity continues to support more people new to us who need all sorts of things. Thank you very much for donating to us in the past.

We currently need the following: these items must be new, as they are being given as gifts this Christmas.

Men - boxer shorts small, medium and large; men's warm socks - sizes from 7 – 11, warm beanie hats, scarves and gloves, men's small/medium joggers, jeans , waterproof small and medium warm jackets, men's trainer's sizes 7 to 10.

Women – warm hats and scarves and gloves (please remember, we have far more men than women), sanitary pads (not tampons), umbrellas and a small number of women's classic style briefs in small, medium and large.

General - washing up liquid, washing powder or capsules, warm duvets for single beds, backpacks.

Please bring them to church or the parish office from where they will be collected.

Thank you very much, for your kindness.

Pauline Ruth. Chair of Trustees

A Warm Parish Welcome

Last weekend, at two of our Masses, we welcomed *Alec, Anthony, Ashley, Emma, Iain, Lloyd, Lorena, Mike, Rob, Samantha, Scott and Tina* who have recently completed their enquiry period of discernment, as they explore if they are being called to a Catholic way of life. Over the coming months, as the group continue to gather each week with parish catechists, please hold them in your prayers as a sign of our whole community support. **St. Wilfrid - Pray for us!**

18-35 Walsingham Pilgrimage

What a weekend! I am counting my blessings as I write this message. Members of the 18-35 Group enjoyed a truly brilliant pilgrimage to Walsingham. I can safely say that we got the most out of every moment (including the coach journey). Importantly, it was a time of encounter with God and his Holy Mother. Walsingham is a 'thin place', a place where the veil between heaven and earth is almost translucent. We would do well to remember Pope Leo XIII's exhortation, "when England goes back to Walsingham, Mary will go back to England". We felt the presence of God there. Ultimately, is it thanks to you, the parishioners, that this pilgrimage took place. Your generosity is impressive. Thank you for enabling this experience. We prayed for you all, holding you up before Our Lady of Walsingham in the Slipper Chapel Shrine. Members of the 18-35 group will be speaking at all Sunday masses on 13/14 December about their pilgrimage experience.

Fr. Peter

Letters from the 18-35 Group to Sick and Housebound Parishioners

During the Walsingham pilgrimage, the 18-35 group wrote individual cards addressed to each of our sick and housebound parishioners, assuring them of our prayers at Our Lady's Shrine. The sick and housebound are a vital part of our community and they are not forgotten. At the same time, we ask for their prayers as they offer their sufferings to the Lord. Together, we are the living Body of Christ in Widnes. Eucharistic Ministers will relay the cards during their visits.

Fr. Peter

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	7th December	Second Sunday of Advent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mass Association Members
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Martin Peter Hassett
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Caroline Edwards
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Bebbington
Monday	8th December	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of BVM	
19.00	Solemn Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	St. Bede	Fr P Dwyer
Tuesday	9th December	Week 2 of Advent	
10am	Requiem Mass	St. Basil	Elizabeth Claire Beattie
Wednesday	10th December	Week 2 of Advent	
09.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary		
09.30	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Jim Norris Pat Gurney
18.00	SJF School, Advent Carol Service	St. John Fisher	
Thursday	11^h December	Week 2 of Advent	
12.00	Requiem Mass	St. Bede	John Vincent Glover
Friday	12th December	Week 2 of Advent	
10am	Requiem Mass	Holy Name, Fazakerley	Joan Moran
Saturday	13th December	Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Parishioners
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Angela Milloy
Sunday	14th December	Third Sunday of Advent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Patrick (Paddy) Ruth
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Michelle Spencer (Adams)
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jimmy Goss
15.00	Advent Carol Service	St. Basil	
No 4pm Mass this week.			

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede:	Thanksgiving (AJ)
St Basil:	Special Intention
St John Fisher:	Joan Moran
St Michael:	William Hickey

Rest in Peace

Joan Moran, Veronica (Roni) Murray,
Patrick Brian Kirwan, Anne Grier,
Paul Waters, Harry Palin,
Ellen June Horabin & Joey Darwin

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!