

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

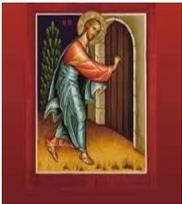
19<sup>th</sup> February 2023

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year A

“Listen!  
I am standing  
at the door  
knocking.”

Rev 3:20



## Clergy Team

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<https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridswidnes>  
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St Bede's Presbytery  
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**Psalm** - Please join in the response: **The Lord is compassion and love.**

*There will be a second collection for the 'Victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria'.*

## How well do we welcome?

To feel welcome when we go into someone's house is a wonderful feeling, to feel wanted is a primary need in all of us and to feel we have a 'place' in a gathering makes us feel secure and increases our confidence.

Before the doorbell has finished ringing when anyone calls at my home, I have usually asked 'would you like a cuppa?' Indicating to the visitor that they are welcome, and I have time for them to sit and chat. It is a nice feeling to feel welcome!

We are blessed in so many ways in our parish and this blessing should be evident in the welcome we give to an unfamiliar face in our church, a nod, a smile, a friendly greeting (especially if they have brought a chatting/crying child to Church!) can mean so much to that person. It lets them know that they are welcome, that they have a place in our gathering, and they are safe.

***"Babies cry, make noise, go here and there. But it annoys me when a baby cries in church and there are those who say he needs to go out. The cry of a baby is God's voice: never drive them away from the church!"***

**Pope Francis**

Next weekend we welcome nearly 200 children and their families to Mass; they will sit where you normally sit, they won't know when to sit or kneel, they might talk when you think it is inappropriate – yet they are welcome, let them know they are with a word and a smile!

**Fr. Mark**

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2023

### First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Children Presentation Mass

Next weekend at all Masses, we will welcome the children as they begin their preparation and are presented to the parish, and we promise to assist them with our welcome and our prayers. It might mean that at some Masses we might be very full; what a wonderful problem to have! Please be generous in your welcome to the children and their families and rejoice that they are there, even if we have to squash up a bit!

### Sacramental Programme Catechists Meeting

There will be a meeting for all catechists on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 12.30pm** at St. Bede's Presbytery. Lunch will be provided.

### Retreat Day with + John – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Please meet outside St. Bede at 9.30am to board the coach to travel to St. Joseph's Prayer Centre. You should arrive back at 4.30pm with glowing halos! There are still some spaces if you would like to come, please pass your name and telephone number with £10 offering into the Parish Office asap!  
Don't forget to bring a packed lunch!

### LGBTQ+ MASS

To offer support to this community and their families as they live out their Catholic Faith. All Are Welcome!  
**ST. BEDE'S CHURCH, APPLETON VILLAGE, WA8 6EL**  
**SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY AT 2PM**  
If you require any further information, please contact: Canon Stephen Maloney on [s.maloney@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:s.maloney@rcaol.org.uk)

## WARRINGTON AND WIDNES DEANERY SYNODAL COUNCIL

Last Saturday, our parish reps, Susan Warburton, Pauline Rolt, Fr. Mark, Denise Roberts and Peter McCann met with the rest of the Synodal Council from Warrington and Cronton to spend time together in prayer and discussion. We looked at 'Families of Parishes' and how this model could or could not benefit us as an area. The Synodal Way is about how we think and create rather than 'doing' which I think we are all struggling with, as we are do'ers, rather than 'sitters' by nature!

The fruits of the Synodal Council is bearing fruit, please pray that it is fruit that will last!

## LENT 2023

So many things are being offered throughout this season so that we can truly be ready for the greatest feast of the Church's year, please come and be part of it and commit yourself as part of your Lenten observance.

Yes, you can give up sweets and biscuits and you might be a bit thinner,  
give up the beer or the wine and you may be a bit healthier...  
but will you be any holier?

To be **HOLY** is the call of Lent!



## PAINTING VOLUNTEERS

I may be asking a lot, but if you don't ask you don't get!

We are hopeful that the Stations of the Cross will be returned to St. Michael's before Easter. They will look beautiful, but the walls that they will be rehung on do not! They need a lick of paint, well, maybe two?!

Are there any volunteers who could help do this, or at least give me some advice?

Could I ask that **ANYONE** across the whole parish who could help to meet at **St. Michael's Church** on

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm**

Please come along and at least see what you could offer to help!

**Fr. Mark**

## St John Fisher Church

The Trustees of the Archdiocese agreed for the internal redecoration of St. John Fisher Church.

So work is to begin, and we need help...

The Church will close after Mass on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February.**

We need volunteers to help clear, with great care, as much as we can from Church, to help the redecoration go smoothly. If you can help on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am**, then meet at Church.

**Sunday Mass, at 10.30am** and **Friday Mass at 9.30am** will take place in the Parish Hall, please liaise with Linda, Margaret, Margaret, and John, in the sacristy to offer help to set up chairs etc. as it will be all hands-on deck!

**Early Riser Mass on Wednesday at 7am**, during Lent, will be transferred to **St. Bede** till the redecoration is completed.

With the skill and the dedication of the decorators and with our prayers, St. John Fisher Church will be open for the beginning of Holy Week.

**St. John Fisher – pray for us!**

### Questionnaire Enclosed

We urge you to fill out and return the questionnaire as we look towards the next stage of our renewal of St. Bede's Church. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard. Please keep to the questions asked. This is not the right time to air your views about other things that you like or do not like in the parish community!

*Please return the questionnaire by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March*

*St. Wilfrid's Building Group*

The Stations of the Cross will be recited on Fridays at 1pm in St Michael's Church beginning on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

### World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer service is being held at St Ambrose Church, Halton View Road, WA8 OTT, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2.00pm.

Each year the service is written by Christian women from different countries, this year it has been prepared by the women of Taiwan, who have chosen the theme, 'I have heard about your faith'. The service is held throughout the world; so that for every hour of that day many of our brothers and sisters in Christ will be sharing in this act of worship.

This is an interdenominational event and all Churches in Widnes have been invited. Please come along and join us as we share in fellowship and seek to grow in our faith together. **All are welcome.**

## Mass Times

**St Bede's Church is open for private prayer Mon-Thurs 10am-13:00**

### Sunday 19<sup>h</sup> February

9.00am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Leo Taylor, Lately Dead  
9.30am Holy Mass (*St Michael*) – Bill Maher, Lately Dead  
10.30am Holy Mass (*St John Fisher*) – James Coffey, Lately Dead  
11.15am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Margaret Mather, Lately Dead  
16:00pm Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Parishioners

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

**No Mass at St Basil's today as clergy are at the Cathedral for Fr Dave Melly's funeral**

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February

11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*St Bede*)  
11.40am Holy Rosary (*St Bede*)  
12 Noon Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Robert William Warren, Birthday Remembrance

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February -ASH WEDNESDAY

7.00am Holy Mass (*St John Fisher*) – Pat McCormick, Lately Dead  
9.30am Holy Mass (*St Basil*) – Gerard Droogan, Lately Dead  
12 Noon Holy Mass *St Michael* – Tony Baker, Anniversary  
19.00pm Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Jim Riley, Lately Dead

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

11.30am Exposition the Blessed Sacrament (*St Michael*)  
11.40am Holy Rosary (*St. Michael*)  
12 Noon Holy Mass (*St. Michael*) – Thomas & Margaret McCann & Family Members

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

09.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*St. John Fisher*)  
09.10am Morning Prayer (*St. John Fisher*)  
09.30am Holy Mass (*St. John Fisher*) – Fr. Peter Fox, Anniversary  
**11.00am Requiem (*St Bede*) – David McKeown**

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February

10.00am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Fredrick Simcock  
10.30am Confessions and Rosary (*St Bede*)  
17.00pm Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Thomas Bowes, Anniversary  
17.00pm Holy Mass (*St Basil*) – Peter Kelly, Lately Dead

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February

9.00am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Matthew Fairhurst, Lately Dead  
9.30am Holy Mass (*St Michael*) – John & Michael Kearns  
10.30am Holy Mass (*St John Fisher*) – Rita Hamilton, Birthday Remembrance  
11.15am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Anne Clarke, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
16:00pm Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – John Traynor, Lately Dead

#### Sanctuary Lamp

*The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.*

St Bede: Eileen Travis  
St Basil: Fr Mark  
St John Fisher: St Anthony in gratitude  
St Michael: James Michael O'Brien

#### ***Please pray for those who have recently died...***

**Philip Potter, Edith Cooney,  
Robert Fyldes, Josephine Dallman, Edward Casey,  
Norman (Ginger) Hunt, Philip Mede, James Duckett,  
Dominic Murray, Edward Connlloy**

***May they rest in peace and rise in glory!***