

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Third Sunday of Advent (B)

17th December 2023

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Responsorial Psalm

'My soul rejoices in my God'

A candle to represent joy...

The third candle on the Advent wreath represents joy; it signifies that we are at the mid-point of our Advent journey and it also recognises the need for joy in our lives and the joy that 'should' come from knowing and following Jesus!

Is there such a thing as a miserable Christian? – Yes!

Should there be such a thing as a miserable Christian? No!

To know Jesus does not take away trouble and trial; our faith is not a good luck charm that we whip out when things start to go wrong. Our faith in Jesus does not remove bad things from happening to us or to those whom we love. YET, what it does promise us is the assurance that we never face trial or trouble alone; He is with us, God with us, Emmanuel!

In our hearts there should always be joy and gratitude. This should be evident in how we speak, act, and think – the generosity of God should make us generous to others; our speech should build one another up, never knock down and our prayer should always include those whom we find difficult to love. Our joy in knowing Jesus should shine from our faces, attracting others into a relationship with Him! So, smile, if for no other reason than 'He knows your name!'

'Kind words are like honey, sweet to the soul and healing to the body'

Proverbs 16:24

Fr Mark

Advent Scripture Group

Come along and share with fellow parishioners what the scriptures mean to you. No one gathering is a scripture scholar, we will simply read the scriptures together and see what they are saying to us in our daily lives. We will meet in St Bede's Presbytery from 7.30pm – 9.00pm. It is often in small groups that we learn something new and wonderful about our faith and help one another hear the scriptures in a new way!

Monday 18th December – Luke 1:26-38 I am the handmaid of the Lord'

A big thank you to Ann Skilki who has led our scripture group this time; your reward will be great in heaven !

St Wilfrid's Parish Advent Carol Concert

Sunday 17th December

St Michael's Church at 3pm

This Sunday the children from some of our primary schools and our high school will come to join our Parish Choir and the Knights Choir to sing to the coming of the Infant King!

A joyous parish tradition!

Last year the number of parishioners who attended the concert was extremely low, so if the numbers do not increase this year, it is time to let this tradition go. This in my view would be a terrible shame, but I suppose we must read the signs of the times and if people do not come then our response is made. As the saying goes: 'vote with your feet/presence'!

Fr Mark

Christmas Card/Invitations

This weekend there will be bundles of 20 Christmas Cards that contain a message from our parish and an invitation to join us over Christmas in Church. This is a way of reaching out to our community to welcome all to be with us this Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

So how can I help?

- Please take a bundle of cards and deliver them to houses in your road. These should be given to people who you assume **DO NOT** come to Church or have stopped coming for some reason. Do not deliver them to people who come to church, they know that they are welcome!
- Feel free to address the envelope or sign your name in the card, this will make the card seem more personal.
- Then, we have a responsibility and a challenge, because once we have sent the cards inviting them, they might come! So, they might sit in 'your' seat, they might not stand and sit when they should, they might talk or make noise – that is the challenge! To make them welcome, to offer kindness instead of a judgment, a smile instead of a grimace!

In small ways we signal and point to Jesus, Emmanuel, 'God with us!'

Requiescant in pace

Mary Monica Tobin,
Katrina Bonnon, Peter Higginson
& Patrick 'Paddy' Ruth

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Paddy Ruth & Family
St Michael	Joan Wilcox
St John Fisher	Margaret Mc Dermott
St Basil	Annie and Patrick Moran

Poem – Towers Coming Down

'Nive forty-five a.m. on a Sunday morning;

Church sermons interrupted.

Non-religious trying to enjoy a much-needed lie in:

A deafening noise like thunder.

As four of the Eight Towers of Fiddlers Ferry Power Station went tumbling, cascading to the ground.

Captured on Social Media forever, a part of the north west's history.

Now in the schoolbooks of our next generation of students.

A gargantuan feat of the power of masterful demolition.

With dynamite and a bit of how's your luck'

By William George Scriven

This poem was in the Liverpool Echo and was penned by William, who is a St. Wilfrid's parishioner. Thank you for sharing it with us William!

Mary's Meals Advent Appeal

Please return your boxes/envelopes to church on Sat
30th / Sun 31st December.
Thank you – Elaine & Nina

Reconciliation Service

Wednesday 20th December, 7pm, St Basil's
All Welcome !

Advent Raffle and Dance – Thank you!

Thank you to all who supported our Advent Raffle this year. All our lucky winners have been notified and they will enjoy their prizes over the Christmas period. Names of all our winners are below;

1	£50 M&S Voucher -	Maureen Murray
2	£20 Complexions Voucher -	Peter Moriarty
3	£20 RiversideCollege Voucher -	B Doyle
4	Wine Hamper -	Pat Coad
5	Wine, Cheese and Biscuits -	Tommy Rimmer
6	Romantic Evening for Two -	Susan Warburton
7	Baileys and After Eight -	Ann Coward

Also, a big thank you everyone who came to the Advent Dance. We hope you enjoyed our evening together! There were lots of smiles and laughter and a great sense of community. A big thank you to the Social Group who organised the evening and worked so hard ensuring a good time was had by all! We raised over £2300 and this money will be used for the upkeep of all our churches!

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	17th Dec	Third Sunday of Advent (B)	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Successful Operation
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Joan Wilcox (5 th Ann)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Angela Milloy (B'day Rem)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Goss (B'day Rem)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
Monday	18th Dec	Advent Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Thomas Baker (Ann)
Tuesday	19th Dec	Advent Ferial	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Christina Kenny
12.00	Requiem Mass	St Basil	Mary Bonnon
Wednesday	20th Dec	Advent Ferial	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	William Adrian Glynn (Rem)
19.00	Reconciliation Service at St. Basil		
Thursday	21st Dec	Advent Ferial	
10:30	Funeral Service	St Basil	Norah Evans
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Michael	George Grace (1 st Ann)
Friday	22nd Dec	Advent Ferial	
12:00	Requiem Mass	St John Fisher	Richard Beesley
12:00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Margaret Maxwell
Saturday	23rd Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)	
No 10am Mass or Confessions			
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Norah Warren (6 th Ann)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	John Hughes (LD)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St John Fisher	Stephen Johnson (LD)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Michael	James O'Brien (25 th Ann)
Sunday	24th Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
Sunday	24th Dec	First Mass of Christmas	
18:00	Holy Mass	St Michael	Herbert & Brian Higginson
18:00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Frances Walsh (B'day Rem)
18:00	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Syze
18:00	Holy Mass	St Basil	Keith William, Nicola O'Brien (Rem)
Midnight	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Deceased Members of the Kelly Family