

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Easter Sunday

Second Collection: Holy Places

31st March 2024

Parish Office:

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Parish Clergy:

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Rev Fr Bill Murphy	0151 495 1854
Rt Rev Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 2738
Rev Deacon Paul Rooney	0151 422 1772

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Responsorial Psalm

R. 'This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.'

Are you Hungry?

My family and I went to see the comedian Michael McIntyre last Saturday. During the act he mentioned that many people now associate Easter with food items, for example Hot Cross Buns, roast lamb, and Easter eggs. This got me thinking that all these food items have some Christian symbolism. Eggs represent new life and rebirth, the resurrection. In the medieval period, eating eggs was forbidden during Lent, so on Easter Sunday tucking into an egg was a real treat! But Easter isn't just about satisfying our physical hunger with tasty food treats.

We started the Easter Triduum on Maundy Thursday with a reference to a meal and being fed spiritually and physically in the Last Supper. Jesus' words at the Last Supper were "Take, eat; this is my body" of the bread and then of the cup, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." In Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Human Needs' the first and basic human needs are for food, water, warmth, and rest, and then safety and security. Our 'Catholic Social Teaching' prioritises issues such as 'Protecting Human Life and Dignity', which includes the right to food, the 'Option for and with the Poor and Vulnerable' in which we seek the common good of the entire human family, and 'Solidarity' which recognises that we are part of one human family, wherever we live. Perhaps we can better appreciate that meeting human needs is to address both spiritual and physical hunger? Spiritual and physical hunger is, sadly, a growing reality in our own communities. We have a duty to address these needs through prayer and practical action, while at the same time standing in solidarity with the hungry, the poor and the vulnerable elsewhere in the world. The 'Integrated Food Security Phase Classification' (IPC) is a group that includes the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. According to their latest report, the entire population of Gaza is currently facing high levels of acute food insecurity – or IPC 3 (Crisis) and above. This includes half of the population (about 1.11 million) experiencing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5, Catastrophe). This is the highest ever recorded number of people in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe), both in terms of percent of the population and total number of people. For many people, both at home and abroad, this Easter will be a time of continuing fasting and uncertainty regarding safety and security. Please pray that their needs are met.

Deacon Paul

Parish Trip to St Mary's Seminary, Oscott

'A seminary is more than a building; it is a community of formation.'

We have been offered a wonderful opportunity, to go to St Mary's Seminary, Oscott, for a guided tour, an opportunity to celebrate Evening Prayer with the community and meet the seminarians who are training for mission in our land. We have been invited to go on **Sunday 5th May**, the timetable will be as follows.

1pm Leave St Bede's Church on a coach to travel to the Midlands

3pm Arrive at the Seminary

3.30pm Guided tour of the College

4.30pm Afternoon Tea

5.30pm Evening Prayer and a look around the gift shop.

6.10pm Depart the Seminary

8pm Arrive Home

Cost per person - £20 (this includes a donation to the seminarian's charity)

St Mary's College has existed as a formation community for 228 years. It has been in its present location for the last 184 of those years. What a wonderful afternoon and evening it will be!

Places are limited, so if you would like to come on this trip, please pass your name, telephone and money into the Parish Office marked '**OSCOTT**' as soon as possible.

Lenten Alms – Trinity Safe Spaces

If you have any money that you have saved from your Lenten observance and wish to donate it to the poor, you can either put it into the collection bags marked 'Lenten Alms' or pass it into the Parish Office and we shall pass the donations onto '**Trinity Safe Spaces**'.

Easter Blessings

To all the wonderful parishioners of St Wilfrid's,

We wish you all a blessed Easter and may the light of the Risen Christ burn in your hearts, that you may know His presence and His love for you in your daily lives. Thank you for being such a wonderful parish to serve, for your generosity, time, and skill, for your forgiveness and your love.

Thank you!

+ John, Fr Bill, Fr Thomas, Dcn Paul and Fr Mark

Gift of Life for Zambia Trip to Skipton Market, Friday, April 26th

Our second trip of the year is an old favorite! Skipton has something for everyone - the market, the castle, the canal, the shops, the cafes - the list is endless! The coach leaves St. Basil and All Saints Church at 9.30.am. and returns home at approximately 6.30pm.

The cost is £20. Please put your money in an envelope with your name and telephone number. Further details from Monica (424 8194) or Angela (424 8668).

All profits to Gift of Life for Zambia. Thank you once again for your continued support and generosity.

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Eileen Lee and Family
St Michael	Fr Barry McAllister
St John Fisher	Deceased Priests of the Parish
St Basil	Christine Wilson

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Cynthia Richardson
St Michael	Vocations to the Priesthood
St John Fisher	Intentions of the Holy Father
St Basil	HRH Princess of Wales

Requiescant in pace

Francis Molloy, Peter Gleave, Mary Julie Bowles, Fr Barry McAllister, Francis Curran, Alex Gamble

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

Sacramental Programme Celebration Mass

On Sunday 14th April, all the children who are making their First Holy Communion this year will gather at St Michael's at the 10.15am Mass.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for the children from across the whole parish to be together before they receive Jesus for the first time.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Holy Family Cronton

7th April 2024

1.30pm	Holy Rosary
2.30pm	Exposition and Divine Mercy Devotions
3.30pm	Stations of the Cross
4.00pm	Holy Mass

Confessions will be available throughout the day.

Postcode for Sat Nav: WA8 5DW

Deanery Synodal Council

Immediately after Easter the members of the Warrington and Widnes Deanery Synodal Council will meet at St Bede's to continue to pray, discuss and share together. As the 'Families of Parishes' were all ratified as they were presented to the Archbishop at the Chrism Mass, we can begin the work of building our families and implement new ways of working across the whole deanery.

Please pray for the work of the DSC that they may continue to be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

St Wilfrid's DSC Members: Susan Warburton, Peter McCann, Denise Roberts, Pauline Rolt, Dcn Paul Rooney and Fr Mark.

Gift Aid Envelopes for the New Tax Year

There have been major logistical issues with the suppliers of the new Gift Aid envelopes. As a result, all numbered boxes will start at 51 and have all been handwritten.

The boxes are ready for collection for most people at the back of their chosen church. As this newsletter is being written on Tuesday, we are still awaiting delivery of boxes and hence not all parishioners' boxes may have been prepared.

If the boxes arrive this week, then these too will be placed out for collection. Please bear with us.

If you have any queries whatsoever about your Gift Aid envelopes, please complete the proforma below, return it to the parish office and a member of the team will get in touch with you to resolve your query.

Once again, many thanks for your continued support of the parish.

Full Name.....

Address.....

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Telephone Number.....

Email Address.....

Query.....

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ST BEDE'S CHURCH

A LONG AWAITED RESTORATION

The Parish Buildings and Finance Committee have the great pleasure of inviting you to a Presentation Evening, in which we will share our exciting plans to restore St Bede's Church, Widnes.

The fruit of thousands of hours of meticulous planning and prayer - informed at every stage by the expertise of nationally respected experts in ecclesiastical heritage and historic buildings maintenance - we have at long last secured the various permissions to proceed and the time has come to present this vision not just to the parish, but the town at large.

This will take place on **Wednesday 8th May at St Basil's Parish Club, WA8 4SZ at 19.30**. Hot drinks will be available, and the bar will be open should you desire something a bit stronger! The presentation will last about an hour and a half, in which time we will hear from various stakeholders in the project, voices from the archdiocese and further afield and some of the dedicated parishioners that make up our committee. It is hoped that you will linger afterwards to meet with our speakers and enjoy some social time together.

Because of the importance of this restoration, not just to the Catholic community, but the broader town of Widnes, we would strongly encourage parishioners from across the parish and not just St Bede's Mass-goers to come along and share in this great event in the life of our parish.

Fr Thomas on behalf of the Buildings and Finance Committee

St Marie's Heritage Group

St Marie's Heritage Group would like to invite you to a talk from local historian Bob Roach at 2.00pm on Saturday 6th April entitled: "How the Town of Widnes Developed because of the Alkali Industry".

This talk will describe how the alkali industry changed the landscape of the town from rural villages to a growing industrial town and consider the living and working conditions encountered by the thousands of people who migrated to the area.

There will be free refreshments and you are encouraged to book a place by emailing heritage@haltonsthelensvca.org.uk or calling 01928 592 405.

Widnes Floral Art Group

Invite you to an evening of stunning floral artistry and inspiration by acclaimed demonstrator
Debbie Davies.

Wednesday 3rd April 7.30pm – Free Entry

Farnworth Methodist Church Hall

Widnes

WA8 9JX

Refreshments available. Table Sales. Raffle.

All Welcome

Thank you

Thank you to all who supported our Easter Raffle, we raised £2165, all which will go towards the upkeep of all the churches. Winners are listed below.

Names of Winners

John Hamilton
Agnes Buckley
K Wong
Terry Hayes
Catherine Lyon
Pauline Adamson
M Roach
Cathy Kenna
D McIlroy
J McCallum
P Kelleher
L Fallon

Thank you to all who donated the prizes for the raffle and to all who supported the 'Easter Lily' initiative, as well as remembering our loved ones at Easter time. It has allowed us to decorate our churches beautifully for our greatest feast.

God bless you all for your kindness!

An Easter Prayer

You are the Resurrection

How wonderful, Lord Jesus, you came back,
you suffered death but conquered it.
You laid in the tomb but on the third day,
you rose again.

O joyful day, Lord Jesus, when you returned.
you are the resurrection, our hope and our life!
O glorious and victorious,
help us not to be afraid of death,
for we must pass through it to see you face to face.

And on the last day we will rise again,
for you said so,
let us rejoice and praise you.

Our Blessed and triumphant Lord
On this happy, joyful feast, let us say with one voice:
Amen

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	31st March	Easter Sunday	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Emily McLean (Ann)
09.00	Holy Mass	St Basil	Private Intention
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Kathleen William & Paul O'Brien
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Christina Kenny (B'day Rem)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
Monday	1st April	Easter Octave	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Pat Brook (LD)
Tuesday	2nd April	Easter Octave	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Colin Parry (LD)
12.30	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Thomas Mahoney
Wednesday	3rd April	Easter Octave	
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Michael	Oliver Gavghen
Thursday	4th April	Easter Octave	
11.00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Amy Ogburn
Friday	5th April	Easter Octave	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Bill Taylor (LD)
12.30	Requiem Mass	St Bede	William Durbin
Saturday	6th April		
(New Mass Schedule)		Easter Octave	
10.00	Bereavement Mass	St Bede	Michael and Winnie Burns (Ann)
10.30	Confessions	St Bede	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Janet Kearns (LD)
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Catherine and Edward Taylor and Family
Sunday	7th April	Second Sunday of Easter	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Peter Higginson (LD)
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Parishioners
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Neil Quinn (Remembrance)
16.00	Holy Mass	Holy Family	John Buckley and HF Parishioners

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	7th April	Second Sunday of Easter	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Peter Higginson (LD)
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Parishioners
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Neil Quinn (Remembrance)
16.00	Holy Mass	Holy Family	John Buckley and Parishioners
Monday	8th April	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Gemma Hunt (LD)
11.00	Funeral Service	St Basil	Keith Anthony Hughes
Tuesday	9th April	Weekday of Easter	
11.00	Funeral Service	St Basil	Joan Dowling
12.00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Shelagh Smith
Wednesday	10th April	Weekday of Easter	
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	June Dunne (LD)
Thursday	11th April	Memorial of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr	
11.00	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Margaret 'Peggy' Boden
Friday	12th April	Weekday of Easter	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Mass	St John Fisher	Albert and Patricia Allen (Remembrance)
Saturday	13th April	Weekday of Easter	
16.30	Mass	St Basil	Fred and Mary Murphy
18.00	Mass	St John Fisher	William and Kate Forrest
Sunday	14th April	Third Sunday of Easter	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Edward 'Ted' Jones (Ann)
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Sister Agnes Dobson (90 th Birthday)
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
16.00	Holy Mass	Holy Family	Morris Family and HF Parishioners