

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

Keep your eye on the newsletter!

As a parish, one of our priorities is the care of those who are bereaved; we get daily requests for Requiem Masses and Funeral Services in a particular church at a particular time, and we always try and accommodate the families wishes at what is a difficult time. Another priority is to offer a weekday Mass in each of the four churches in the parish. We will attempt to ensure that this happens, but I ask you all to read the liturgy page in the newsletter every week and do not presume that the Mass is always at a certain time on a certain day in a particular church. We need to be vigilant and read the newsletter. Thank you.

Parish Choir

The next gatherings of the Parish Choir will be on Monday 22nd April, Tuesday 14th May, Tuesday 4th June and Monday 8th July, all at 7pm in St. Bede's Church. As usual, everyone is very welcome, even if you have not sung before, or been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally. All are welcome.

Sunday Obligation

As your Parish Priest, I feel it is my duty to remind you that watching Sunday Mass on the television does not fulfil your Sunday obligation and deliberately missing Mass on Sunday is sinful.

If you are ill, working shifts that totally preclude your attendance, or housebound then this rule does NOT apply to you!

Fr Mark

Mary's Meals – Pray in May Appeal

Since their humble beginnings, Mary's Meals, named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support them. Mary's Meals is now providing life-changing school meals to more than 2.4 million of the world's poorest children. Throughout the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, we are invited to pray with Mary's Meals, that their work continues to flourish and grow, and that more children will see their lives transformed by receiving their nutritious school meals.

We are asked to pray particularly for families facing extreme food insecurity and hunger in Ethiopia. Mary's Meals is hosting a special online session on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7pm, where their founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, will share more information about this under-reported crisis, and you are all welcome to join this. More information can be found on the Mary's Meals website: [Crisis In Ethiopia | Mary's Meals UK \(marysmeals.org.uk\)](#) There are also a range of resources (e.g. [Pray in May Calendar](#)) available to help you get involved on the website too.

As a parish it would be great if as many of you as possible could join the online session hosted by Magnus.

'Blessed Mother, you knew what it was like to flee from your own country – we pray for all refugee families. We pray particularly for those who have been forced to flee their homes in Ethiopia and now face extreme hunger. That the Lord would protect them, provide the food they need and inspire people of good will to help bring an end to this crisis'. Amen.

Many thanks,

Nina Wylie and Elaine Davies

Mary's Meals Volunteers

