



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Second Collection – Nugent Care



30th March 2025

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Psalm Response

'Taste and see that the LORD is good'

Young Catholics in Widnes

Our second meeting saw 21 young adults gathered at St Bede Presbytery for prayer and fellowship. What a great sign for our parish. We opened with 'Lectio Divina' (prayer with scripture), focusing on the Parable of the Merciful Father from Luke 15. After several periods of silent prayer, many gave their own reflections on the Gospel text. These insights were all profound with regard to their wisdom and honesty. The Holy Spirit was surely alive and moving among us. After prayer, we shared some refreshments and took part in a quiz, including rounds of 'guess the Saint' and 'name that tune' (the latter proving a challenge due to the age range of the group). At the end of the evening, we agreed to meet again on April 13th (Palm Sunday), for a 'Night of Mercy' reconciliation service and time together afterwards. We also decided to generally extend our meetings to 9pm. Please remember this group in your prayers. We are the future.

In Thanksgiving for our Altar Servers

This weekend, we give thanks to God for our Altar Servers, as they re-affirm their commitment to ministry at St. Wilfrid's. We are very fortunate to have such a thriving team of servers here in Widnes, which in recent weeks, has been enriched by several new members. Another great sign for our community! St. Stephen, the patron saint of Altar Servers, provides an example for those involved in liturgy. He who was a Deacon renowned for his preaching, was also devoted to humble service at tables. Thus, he gave of himself not just in liturgical ministry, but especially in life, by acts of charity. May the same St. Stephen, intercede for our servers, that following the example of Jesus Christ, the Servant King, they may lay down their lives in humble charity and so enjoy the fruit of their labour in the Heavenly Kingdom.

Fr Peter

St Michael's Church

It has been communicated to St. Wilfrid's Parish this week that the request for a new heating system at St. Michael's Church has been turned down by the Archdiocesan Trustees. We await clarification.

St Bede's Garden Update

Volunteers have been busy over the winter restoring the grounds. Trenches dug to preserve the walls from tree roots. Shrubbery removed and ground levelled. Trees pruned and planted and borders re-aligned and laws extended and edged. Tree stumps removed and 230 hollies planed around the perimeter. Logs cut from trees will benefit wildlife with birdboxes erected. Chicken wire fixed to fences to reduce litter. Wildflowers and ornamentals planted for year-round colour. This project will reduce workload enhancing St Bede's. Thank you to all who give of their time to benefit us all.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass is an annual event when the Archbishop, the priests and the people gather in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King – it is an occasion when we see the Church in the Archdiocese of Liverpool united. At this Mass, the Sacred Oils that are used throughout the Archdiocese throughout this year, are blessed and the priests renew their promises of ordination. We shall organise a coach to take us to the Cathedral, it will leave St. Bede's Church at **6pm** on **Wednesday 16th April** and return around 10pm.

If you would like to come on the coach, please pass your name and an offering of £5 per person into the Parish Office asap. There is always a great turnout from St. Wilfrid's Parish for the Chrism Mass so please get your name down for the coach!

Celebration of Altar Servers

This weekend at the 10.15am Mass at St. Michael's we will give thanks for all those people who serve as altar servers at Mass. To serve at the altar is a great privilege and a ministry that should never be taken for granted. If you would like to serve as an altar server in the Parish of St. Wilfrid, please contact Fr. Peter or Dcn. Paul and they will arrange training and point you in the right way to begin this wonderful way of serving your fellow parishioners.

St. Stephen, patron of altar servers – pray for us!

St. Wilfrid – pray for us!

Relics of St. Columba, St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland

St. Wilfrid's Knights of St. Columba have been asked to host a visit of the relics of these three great saints in our parish. What an honour! They will visit our church after Easter, and we shall pray with the relics asking their intercession for our mission here in Widnes.

Timetable of the Visit – St. John Fisher Church

Wednesday 23rd April

9.30am – Morning Prayer and Rosary

10am – 12noon – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the presence of the Relics.

12noon – Holy Mass (*Presider: Fr. Bill Murphy, Chaplain to the Knights of St. Columba*)

12.30pm – 2pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the presence of the Relics.

6pm - 7pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the presence of the Relics.

7pm – Holy Mass

Thursday 24th April

9.30am - Morning Prayer and Rosary

10am – 12noon - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the presence of the Relics.

12noon - Holy Mass (*Presider: Fr. Bill Murphy, Chaplain to the Knights of St. Columba*)

Relics to depart from St. Wilfrid's Parish.

Easter Raffle

At the back of all churches there are books of raffle tickets which we urge you to take and sell to your family and friends in aid of all our churches. This raffle promises wonderful prizes to the winners. Please support our parish and our Grand Easter Raffle! Please return the stubs and the money to the Parish Office or give to the sacristans in each of our churches and they will get them to the Parish Office for you. Many thanks!

Easter Lilies

Would you like to buy a lily for Easter? These flowers are often bought in memory of a loved one and their names are displayed in each of the Churches for the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday. They cost just £5 each. **There are envelopes and forms at the back of all churches that should be completed and returned to the Parish Office before Friday 11th April.**

Our Lenten Journey 2025 Week 4: Almsgiving

As a parishioner of St. Wilfrid's could we commit to making a small donation to support the work of Widnes Foodbank? Could you bring one of the following items to Mass next weekend?

Currently, Widnes Foodbank need the following items: *Jam, Long-life fruit juice, Rice, Coffee, Pasta sauce, Tinned fruit, Easter Eggs* are also welcome donations at this time of the year. Boxes will be placed at the back of each church for donations.

'When food is shared in a fair way, with solidarity, when no one is deprived, every community can meet the needs of the poorest.'

Pope Francis

Lenten Journey

Monday 31st March at 7pm at St. Basil's Church – Holy Hour, Jesus, Word Made Flesh

Tuesday 1st April at 12.30pm at Parish Hall at St. John Fisher – Scripture Group

Wednesday 2nd April at 7am at St. John Fisher Church – Early Riser Mass

Friday 4th April at 1pm at St. Basil's Church – Stations of the Cross

St. Wilfrid's Union of Catholic Mothers Events

Thank you to all who supported the Easter Bingo, £285 was raised for UCM Charities. Please join us on **Saturday 5th April** after the 6pm Mass – Booksale and refreshments served in the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher.

CAFOD Soup and Supper Evening

Part of our Lenten practices should be to share *'your bread with the hungry'* – we shall have a time of prayer and a shared supper at the Parish Hall at St. John Fisher on **Thursday 10th April at 7pm**. A delicious supper will be provided and sometimes we have cakes too (if you have given them up for Lent, you are allowed on this evening!), then you are asked to donate what you have saved and donate the money to CAFOD which will be added to our Lenten Fast Collection.

If you would like to come, please give your name into the Parish Office by Friday 4th April so that we can prepare food for everyone! Please come for a lovely evening together as a parish family!

Parish Choir

We will be practicing music for the Easter Services at the times listed below. As usual, if you have not sung before, or not sung for years, or have not been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally, it does not matter, you would be most welcome.

Sadly though, at this time, all members of the choir must be over 18 due to safeguarding guidance. Our practices for Easter are on **Monday 31st March, Tuesday 8th April, all at 7pm in St. John Fisher Church.**

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	30th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jim Norris
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Sarah Loftus
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Michelle Spencer (Adams)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	James Breslin
Monday	31st March	Lent Feria	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Rose Hornby
19.00	Holy Hour Jesus, Word made Flesh	St Basil	
Tuesday	1st April	Lent Feria	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Will Bloomfield
Wednesday	2nd April	Lent Feria	
07.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Vladimir Potopayev
Thursday	3rd April	Lent Feria	
11.00	Requiem Mass	St John Fisher	Anne Conroy
Friday	4th April	Lent Feria	
10.00	Funeral Service	St. John Fisher	Jean Clark
13.00	Stations of the Cross	St. Basil	
Saturday	5th April	Lent Feria	
10.00	Bereavement Mass	St John Fisher	Holy Souls & Jack O'Neil
10.30	Confessions		
		Fifth Sunday of Lent	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Pattison & Buckley Families
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
Sunday	6th April	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	George & Leah Sadler
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Doyle
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Martin Wynne
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mass Association Members

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Billy Moran
St Basil:	Edith Fairhurst
St John Fisher:	George Lees
St Michael:	Nina and Bobby Spofforth

Rest in Peace

Anthony Nightingale,
Michael Twist, Margaret Colford,
Derek Hughes, Lawrence Karalius

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!