



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



8th June 2025

Solemnity of Pentecost Whit Sunday (Year C)

(Second Collection Next Week – Day for Life)

Parish Office:

St Bede's Presbytery
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WA8 6EL

Parish Clergy:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
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Psalm Response

'Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth'.

How do we understand the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a concept within the monotheistic faiths that trace their origins back to the biblical Abraham. In Judaism, the Holy Spirit is understood as the divine quality or force of God manifesting in the world, particularly in acts of prophecy, creation and guidance. In Islam the concept of the Holy Spirit exists as an agent of divine action or communication. In the Christian denominations that follow the teaching of the Nicene Creed, the concept is expanded in meaning to represent the third person of the Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Son. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, the 'Triune God' manifested as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each Person being God.

According to Catholic Tradition, the Holy Spirit brings us seven gifts. These are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of God. 'Fear of God' sounds quite scary, but what it means is to revere God and avoid separating ourselves from Him.

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, these gifts, known as grace, are provided by God as supernatural 'helps' for us. They help us to go beyond the limitations of human reason and human nature and to participate in the very life of God, as Christ promised. In other words, they are necessary for our salvation, something that we cannot achieve on our own.

We all need the grace that the Holy Spirit offers us. The grace of the Holy Spirit is for everyone. Through works of charity and prayer we can unlock the power of the seven gifts. This is what the Church is expecting from each of us.

Deacon Paul Rooney

Fr. Bill Murphy – 50 years of Priesthood

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Mark, Fr Peter and all of you, the Family of St Wilfrid's, for the beautiful and emotional celebration last Friday in St Basils as I celebrated my Golden Jubilee of Priesthood. There are times when words alone fail to express what we want to say. So, I simply say, 'Thank you for your love and affection'.
Fr Bill

Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Just to make a note in your diaries! We shall be holding a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from **Wednesday 18th June** till the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, on **Friday 27th June**. The theme of the Novena is '*The heart that...*' and we shall explore the many ways that the heart of Jesus reaches out to touch our lives.

The Masses will be at 7pm each evening and as well as Fr. Mark and Fr. Peter, we will welcome other priests to come and share the fruits of their contemplation with us.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus – we place all our hope in thee!

Thank You from Mary's Meals

A huge thank you for your kind donation of £1109.66 from your Lenten collection for Mary's Meals. Your generosity will ensure children will continue to receive nutritious meals in their place of education. 11,096 meals. We are so grateful for the continued support from St Wilfrid's.

Exciting News for Parents of Two-Year-Olds!

St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School currently has places available for two-year-olds starting this September. From **September 2025**, all working parents of two-year-old children will be entitled to **30 hours of free childcare provision**. To find out more or to secure a place for your child, please contact our school office at **0151 424 2879**.

Mass Intentions

Every effort to respond to requests for Masses to be said on a specific date and in a specific church is made. Yet, please understand that Requiem Masses and availability of the priests often make these requests impossible. The Mass requested will be celebrated at the nearest opportunity to the date requested. Your understanding is sought on this issue. Mass requests should be made as early as possible and passed into the Parish Office.

St Marie's Church Notice Books and Newly Restored Pieta

The St Marie's Heritage Group are pleased to announce that, by popular demand, we will be making available the St Marie's Parish "Notice Books" once again for inspection and discussion. The notices were read out to the congregation at the end of Mass and are in effect the modern equivalent of a parish newsletter. These books are a rich source of parish and social history, particularly during the war years and significant events in the church's history. You'll also find Marriage Banns and notices of parishioners who are sick, lately dead and anniversaries. No doubt, you will find references to your family if they belonged to St Marie's Parish. The periods that we have available are 1865 - 1867; 1870 - 1873; 1890 -1927 and 1940 - 1980. In addition to the church notice books, we are also very excited to be unveiling the newly restored Pieta at 2.15pm. We hope you can join us on Saturday 14th June 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Notice – 4pm Mass

Please note, that due to clergy holidays there will not be a 4pm Sunday Mass at St. Bede on **Sunday 15th June** or **Sunday 22nd June**. Please make a note in your diaries.

Could you serve the Church and our Parish as a Foundation Governor in one of our Schools?

What are foundation governors?

Foundation Governors are **appointed in the name of the Archbishop and form the majority of the governing body of a Catholic school**. They have a legal duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school and to ensure that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed.

Service as a foundation governor in a Catholic school is one of the most significant and important ways members of the Catholic Faith community can support the Church's divine mission of helping all to arrive at the fullness of Christian life.

There are few specific requirements. A Foundation Governor must:

- Be a Catholic who attends Sunday Mass regularly and gives true witness to the teachings of the Church
- Be prepared to work with discretion as a member of the full governing body and attend training events to help build up a body of knowledge and expertise
- Bring a wider skill set to enhance the wider Governing Body in undertaking its collective duties to lead the school and meet the contemporary requirements of the Department for Education and Ofsted.

We need Foundation Governors across all our parish schools; do you have skills that you could bring to the Governing Body of the school? If you want to know more, please contact Fr. Mark either in person or e-mail him at m.moran@rcaol.org.uk

More information can be found on the Archdiocesan website.

Widnes Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who supported us during May! Please would you continue your support during June to help those in our community who are in need. If you can donate food to us are current most needed items are:

UHT milk, UHT juice, tinned potatoes, tinned soup, tinned fruit, and all toiletries.

Parish Choir

If you have not sung before, or not sung for years, or haven't been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally, it doesn't 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 next practices are on Monday 30th June and Tuesday 22nd July, all at 7pm in St. John Fisher Church.

Parish Liturgy

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 8th June | Solemnity of Pentecost | |
| 09.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | George Howard |
| 10.15 | Holy Mass | St Michael | Parishioners |
| 11.30 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Margaret & Eddie Burke |
| 16.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | John Barrow |
| Monday | 9th June | Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church | |
| 09.30 | Service of the Word With Holy Communion | St Basil | |
| Tuesday | 10th June | Ferial | |
| NO MASS | | | |
| Wednesday | 11th June | Memorial of St Barnabas | |
| 10.00 | Requiem Mass | St Basil | Eric Whitfield |
| Thursday | 12th June | Feast of Lord Jesus Christ, The Eternal High Priest | |
| 09.00 | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | St John Fisher | |
| 09.30 | Holy Mass | | Mary Davies |
| Friday | 13th June | Memorial of St Anthony of Padua | |
| 10am | School Mass | St. Gerard's School | Children of the Parish |
| Saturday | 14th June | Vigil of Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity | |
| 10am | Holy Mass | St. Michael | Marriage and Family Life |
| 14.00 | Wedding Service - Hunt/Gorry | St. Michael | |
| 16.30 | Holy Mass | St Basil | The McCormack Family |
| 18.00 | Holy Mass | St John Fisher | Dcn John Williams |
| Sunday | 15th June | Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity | |
| 09.00 | Holy Mass | St Bede | SVP |
| 10.15 | Holy Mass | St Michael | Gerard McCann & Family |
| 11.30 | Holy Mass | St Bede | Parishioners |
| No 4pm Mass this week or next. | | | |

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| St Bede: | Nicholas Cook |
| St Basil: | Special Intention |
| St John Fisher: | With Thanks for Friendship |
| St Michael: | Mary Davies |

Rest in Peace

Peter Comerford, Robert Tollet, Michael Hardman,
Winifred & William Gill, John Swift, Nicholas Cook,
Sharon Doyle, Catherine Condron, John McCann,
Thomas Lyons, Marie Thompson & Gerald Martin
May the Angels lead them into Paradise!