



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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

Parish Office:
St Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 6EL

T: 0151 422 1772
E: stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk
W: stwilfridswidnes.uk

My dear parishioners,

A New Chapter for St. Wilfrid's Parish

In the three and a half years that I have been amongst you, I know St. Wilfrid's Parish to be a living community of faith and because of this, we change and move and grow as we walk together following Jesus.

In the next 12 months there will be changes in the team of priests who are serving our parish community. I am sharing what I can now so that there can be a real openness as we plan for the future together.

+ John Rawsthorne

Bishop John has served in the parish for 9 years and has served us faithfully; but he feels it is the right time for him to retire from active ministry. So, at the beginning of August 2024, + John will leave St. Wilfrid's and move to Ainsdale. + John promises that he will not be a stranger to us!

Fr. Bill Murphy

Fr. Bill has served in the parish for 8 years and he too has served faithfully. Fr. Bill will retire from active ministry on 1st September 2024, and will continue to live in Sefton Avenue. Fr. Bill has expressed a wish to continue helping out in the parish as and when he can.

We wish him well in his retirement.

Fr. Thomas Clarke

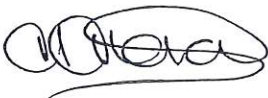
Fr. Thomas has been with us for 2 years and his presence amongst us is appreciated by our community. Archbishop + Malcolm has asked Fr. Thomas to concentrate solely on his studies and so on 5th August 2024, Fr. Thomas will leave the parish to go to Ottawa, Canada to continue his studies in Canon Law for two years. We wish him well!

When he returns to the Archdiocese, Fr. Thomas will be given another appointment within the Archdiocese.

So, I, will continue to serve as Parish Priest. We have been promised a new priest to join us in Widnes on 1st September 2024. So, we shall run the parish with two full time priests. This will mean adaptation and an openness to change for us all. The future planning does not lie with the parish clergy team alone, the parish synodal council is endeavoring to expand its membership, to create a working steering group, we are looking into lay roles that can be encouraged and developed. The liturgical life of the parish will have to be closely looked at, as we must care for the two priests serving here and ensure they do not 'burn out'.

'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of thy love, send forth thy spirit and they shall be created and thou shalt renew the face of the earth'

We face this time of change together; we trust and we pray!



Fr. Mark Moran
Parish Priest/Moderator
St. Wilfrid's Parish, Widnes
November 2023