

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



## Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

**Second Collection: Mission Appeal, Sisters of the  
Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Parish Office:**  
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### Parish Clergy:

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator)	0151 513 0024
Rev Fr Thomas Clarke	0151 424 6641
Rev Fr Bill Murphy	0151 495 1854
Rt Rev Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 2738
Rev Deacon Paul Rooney	0151 422 1772

### Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

### Administrator:

Deborah Kenna



### Responsorial Psalm

**R. 'A pure heart create for me, O God.'**

### Celebrating Similarity

Last Sunday evening I was stuck in stationary and slow-moving traffic trying to drive back from the Liverpool vs Manchester City football match at Anfield. While waiting in the traffic jam, I tuned into BBC Radio Merseyside hoping for some post-match commentary and analysis. Instead of football being on, I was intrigued to listen to a programme which included an interview with Dowshan Humzah, a British Muslim from the award-winning charity 'Ramadan Tent Project'. He described one of their charitable initiatives called 'Open Ifta'. This promotes works of charity during their holy month of Ramadan and is aimed at bringing people together, regardless of faith. It got me thinking about how various faiths have periods of heightened prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We call this Lent.

For us, Lent is a time of preparation and penance leading up to Easter, which itself is a reminder for all Catholics that Jesus has overcome death and sin, achieving the victory of good over evil. But I asked myself how well I understood Ramadan and its significance for Muslims? While sitting in the traffic jam I reflected on this, especially as the following day, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, marked the start of Ramadan. It dawned on me that on that same day in my work as a university lecturer I was leading a long field trip to the Sefton dunes that included several Muslim students. How could I relate to them and appreciate the start of their holy month of fasting, prayer and almsgiving while trudging around the dunes? I needed to know more.

After hastily reading up on things that Sunday evening, it was clear to me that while there are obvious differences in the belief systems, both Lent and Ramadan provide opportunities for individuals to deepen their spiritual connection with God and draw closer to their faith. In both faiths, through fasting and abstinence, the awareness of suffering and anguish that many people endure is heightened, therefore bringing into clearer focus the sad fact that our world needs healing. In both practices the believers care about the ones who do not have much and try to take care of them. I was struck by the similarities.

Deacon Paul

### **Warrington and Widnes Deanery Mass**

Next **Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 12noon**, we will host the Deanery Mass at St John Fisher Church. Please make every effort to attend this Mass as it is a wonderful way to pray with our deanery priests and people.

### **Lenten Journey**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**      **Early Riser Mass at St John Fisher's Church at 7am**

*Come and hear His voice in the stillness of the morning, calling you into holiness and healing.*

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**      **Scripture Group, 12.30pm at St Bede's Presbytery**

*'Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem'*

### **St Bede's Junior School – Year 3**

If your child attends St Bede's RC Junior School and is currently in Year 3 you are asked to attend a meeting on either; **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 6pm in Church** or **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 9.30am (after Y3 assembly) in school**. This is to discuss the Sacramental Programme. Fr Mark

### **Last Call for the Chrism Mass**

The Chrism Mass, which this year will take place on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm in the Metropolitan Cathedral is usually the largest annual gathering of archdiocesan clergy and faithful throughout the year. At the Mass, Archbishop Malcolm blesses the holy oils that are used throughout the archdiocese for celebrations of the sacraments in the next year. He does this in the presence of priests, deacons and lay faithful. Altar Servers are encouraged to attend and wear their albs and sit with other altar servers from across the archdiocese.

*A coach will be available to take parishioners to the Chrism Mass. We shall leave outside St Bede's Church at 6pm and return around 9.30pm. If you would like to come on the coach, please pass your name and offering of £5 into the Parish Office marked: 'CHRISM MASS' and we shall reserve you a place on the coach.*

### **Pilgrimage to Knock Meeting**

There will be a meeting for all those going on pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine in Knock on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** at **7.30pm** in **St Bede's Church**. Please make every effort to attend as all information will be shared and questions (hopefully!) answered. We shall also be taking names of those who wish to book onto the coach that will take us to the airport and pick us up on our return.

Our Lady of Knock - pray for us! St Joseph - pray for us! St John the Evangelist - pray for us!

### **Stations of the Cross**

Many people commented at how moving the stations of the cross were, how we used light and dark and different voices. People felt a great connection with Jesus as they stood before the cross individually at the end of the service and brought their own needs and prayers before Him. We shall repeat this service again. Please do come again and, if you missed it, make an extra special effort to come.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at St. Bede's Church**

### **Soup and Prayer – CAFOD**

Thank you to all who came together to pray, share, and eat together in aid of CAFOD. It was a wonderful evening of friendship, food, and delicious cakes! There was a wonderful sense of community in the parish hall, and we also raised **£200** which will go directly to CAFOD to help our brothers and sisters overseas. Thank you to all who worked so hard to welcome, share and build community in our parish!

### Requiescant in pace

Madge Houghton, Mary Naughton,  
Amy Ogburn, Tommy Cuerden,  
Thomas Mahoney, Keith Hughes, Ellen Jones,  
William Durbin & Cynthia Richards

### Sanctuary Lamp

*The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.*

<b>St Bede</b>	Cynthia Richards
<b>St Michael</b>	Sr Pennie
<b>St John Fisher</b>	RCIA Candidates
<b>St Basil</b>	Peter Golson (Snr)

### A Lily for Easter

There are envelopes at the back of all churches, with a form inside for you to list the names of your loved ones that you wish to be remembered. The envelopes should be returned to the office by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. The cost of each lily is £5 per stem.

### Easter Bingo

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, St John Fisher Hall, Moorfield Road. 1.30pm, Admission is £1.00 All proceeds will go the UCM Charities.

All are very welcome!

### Extraordinary Ministers and Readers

Would all Eucharistic Ministers and Readers please contact Pauline Rolt as a matter of urgency either via her email address or the Parish Office. As we prepare to move to our new Mass schedule, we need to know at which Mass you will minister at, so that rotas can be produced and distributed. Thank you for your ministry amongst us all.

### Welcome Sr Pennie

This weekend we welcome Sr Pennie, from the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Sr Pennie will speak at some of the Masses this weekend and return to us next weekend to continue to share the story of how our financial help can help the poorest of the poor in our world. Sr Pennie's community work in parishes and have missions in Africa, Philippines, UK, and Ireland.

You are very welcome here Sr Pennie!

### Lenten Reconciliation Service

'Go in peace, your sins are forgiven' – please come and hear these words as we approach the great feast of Easter. This years' service will take place on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm** at St. John Fisher Church. Individual confessions will be offered. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### Easter Raffle – Last Chance to Win

At the back of all the churches there are books of raffle tickets for our annual Easter Raffle. The prizes are amazing as always and are donated by very kind and generous parishioners! Please take as many books as you can and return them to the parish office as soon as you can. All money will go to the upkeep of all our church buildings, so please, sell, sell, sell! Raffle will be drawn on Palm Sunday.

### Walk of Witness

On **Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March**, we will gather at 3pm at St Basil's Church and walk in witness to our faith. Will you join us and show your belief in Jesus and the power of His love for the world?

### Firewood and Woodchip

Thanks to those who collected all the firewood last weekend. Could everyone please send in their donations as soon as possible?

Some wood chipping is left over and is available for a small donation.

Please contact the Parish Office if interested.

## Parish Liturgy

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Norah Warren (B'day Rem)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Patricia Quinn (10 <sup>th</sup> Ann)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Mary O'Brien (8 <sup>th</sup> Ann)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Rimmer (B'day Rem)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
<b>Monday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Weekday of Lent</b>	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Joe Houghton (Rem)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Josie Atherton (LD)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Weekday of Lent</b>	
07.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Susan Mann (LD)
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Raymond (Ray) McLoughlin
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Weekday of Lent</b>	
11.30	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Elizabeth Geraghty (Ann) Kevin & Peter Geraghty (B'day Rem)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Weekday of Lent</b>	
<b>12noon</b>	<b>Deanery Mass</b>	<b>St John Fisher</b>	Mike Abbott (LD) Paddy Ruth, John McDermott & Madge Houghton
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Weekday of Lent</b>	
10.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Paul Dwerryhouse (LD)
10.30	Confessions		
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Tom Cabe (Wed Ann)
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>h</sup> March</b>	<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Patricia Waller (80 <sup>th</sup> B'day Rem)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	John & Dennis Heaton (Ann)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	David Rowlands & Grandson David
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Pat Walker (LD)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ruth Bibby (3 <sup>rd</sup> Ann)