



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



22nd September 2024

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

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

Parish Clergy:

Rev Fr. Mark Moran (PP, Moderator) 0151 513 0024
Rev Fr. Peter Ross 0151 422 1772
Rev Deacon Paul Rooney 0151 422 1772

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

Office Manager:
Sylvia Cawley
Administrator
Deborah Kenna

Psalm Response: 'The Lord upholds my life'

A new feast day...

Earlier this year, the Vatican gave approval for the annual liturgical celebration of Our Lady of Walsingham to be elevated to a Feast Day in England. This is great news for our country! From now on, Mass on the 24th of September will include the recitation of the Gloria and special prayers in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham. The only celebration above a Feast in the liturgy is a Solemnity. Some notable Solemnities include Easter Day, Christmas Day and within our own parish, Saint Wilfrid's Day, as he is our principal patron. Interesting fact: all Sundays in the year are also Solemnities!

The story of Walsingham began in the year 1061, when Lady Richeldis de Faverches, a holy noble woman, underwent a series of religious ecstasies, including a visit back in time to home of the Holy Family at Nazareth (Doctor Who eat your heart out). Our Lady requested that Richeldis build a replica of the house at Nazareth, so that pilgrims could seek her intercession in Walsingham. This she did and it is said that angels assisted her in finishing the Holy House. So it was that Walsingham grew to prominence as 'England's Nazareth' and thus the once insignificant Norfolk village, became one of the great pilgrimage centres of the world. Many Kings and Queens of England visited the Shrine, including King Henry VIII, who, upon founding the Church of England because he wanted a new wife, destroyed the Shrine and ordered the Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham to be burned at Chelsea in 1538. As a result, Walsingham returned to insignificance, until 1896, when another pious woman, Charlotte Pearson Boyd, purchased and restored the then ruined medieval 'Slipper Chapel' just outside of Walsingham, thereby re-establishing Catholic devotion to Our Lady in the area. The same ancient Chapel was created a Minor Basilica by Pope Francis in 2015 and serves as our National Shrine of Our Lady.

This parish has a long association with the Shrine and by God's grace, some of us we will be journeying there later this year. May she pray for us and for our troubled world.

Fr Peter

Restoration Update

Hard hats, high viz jackets and boots were the order of the day when accompanied by Peter McCann and the architects I ascended the ladders to view the progress so far on the restoration of the St Bede's Church. As you can see the scaffolding is now finished right to the top of the church on all sides. It has taken a while but is worth it to ensure safety and to ensure that the whole exterior of the church can be restored in one go!

Despite the odd pigeon flying out at me from concealed corners the visit went well. The slates are not in too bad a condition. What is an issue are the weak points. The pointing, the flashings, bad repairs carried out in the past. When on top of the roof the poor state of the gutters and buildup of silt etc. show what the water is coming into the church.

What was an even bigger issue was the state of the large sandstone window above the high altar, it was literally crumbling in my hands as I touched it. The architect said it was returning to beach!! I.e. going back to sand.

Fortunately, however, the plan was to replace the window, so I do not need to worry when saying Mass that the beach might come crumbling down around me in the future.

I am pleased to report that the project is on schedule, and I will keep you all updated regularly as progress is made.

Fr Mark

Men's Cursillo Encounter

Are you searching for a deeper meaning in your life? Come to the Men's Cursillo Encounter Weekend at St. Joseph's Prayer Centre, Formby, L37 1PH. Thursday 21st November till Sunday 24th November. For more information, please contact Stephen on 07851609832 or email stephen_gallag@hotmail.co.uk

Walsingham 2024

The balance of payment for our parish pilgrimage to Walsingham is due by the end of September. If you have booked an ensuite room, the balance is £220 per person and if you have booked a standard room the balance is £180. If you could pass your cheque (payable to St. Wilfrid's Parish) or cash into the Parish Office with your name attached for the attention of Susan Warburton.

Many thanks.

St. Wilfrid's Parish Dance

Friday 18th October at 7.30pm - St. Basil's Parish Centre

In October we celebrate the feast of our parish patron, St. Wilfrid and we are going to have a parish dance to celebrate who and what we are as a parish community. There will be entertainment, buffet, dancing, stand up bingo, raffles and lots of fun times together! Come along and share an evening with your parish family! Tickets will be available shortly. Tickets are £5 each and will be on sale at all Masses on the **28th/29th September!**

Handypeople Needed!

So, often we need small jobs done around our churches and presbyteries and halls; and often because we are not able to do the job, we have to contact the archdiocese, and they send a tradesperson out to fix the problem and we are rightfully charged for this. Yet, the cost is often great for what is a small job, with call out fees etc. Could you help?

Small electrical jobs, like changing fuses and starting up the heating systems? Dripping taps and leaking loos? Drilling holes and fixing gaps? These small jobs add up to high costs for the parish.

If you are 'handy' with small jobs and would be willing to help from time to time, could you pass your name and telephone number and what handy skills you have, and we will contact you if the need arises. Thank you so much, this will be a great help to the whole parish community!

Parish Liturgy

Please check where Holy Mass is each day as everything is subject to change!

Sunday	22nd September	Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Wilson
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Anthony Murphy
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mgr. Charles Glass
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
Monday	23rd September	Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina	
09.30	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St Basil	
Tuesday	24th September	Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Marie Bowden
Wednesday	25th September		
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Ian Valentine Pemerton
Thursday	26th September		
12 noon	Funeral Service	St Michael	Thomas McDermott
Friday	27th September	Memorial of St Vincent de Paul	
12 noon	Deanery Mass	St Benedict, Warrington	Joseph Suffield Patricia Allen
Saturday	28th September		
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	John O'Neil
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Margaret Burke
Sunday	29th September	Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret & Gerard Gornall
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Cyril Leslie Fallon
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	George, Mary & Gerard Dann
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Special Intention
St Basil	Sick and Housebound
St John Fisher	Thanksgiving (AW)
St Michael	Special Intention

Requiescant in pace

Barbara Flanagan

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

St Basil & All Saints: Local Ecumenical Partnership

Liverpool Diocese have always been blessed by the ecumenical relationship we share with the Archdiocese, and the opportunity to work together in the Local Ecumenical Partnership of St Basil and All Saints is just one example of how this relationship has been lived out in the local community for over four decades. Some remarkable work has taken place since this partnership was formed, and for this we remain thankful to those who held and developed the vision for such a partnership, benefiting both church and wider community.

However, the LEP is now 40 years old, and today we find ourselves facing new challenges amid significant pressure on finance and resources, none of which could have been foreseen when the LEP was first established in 1983.

To that end, All Saints PCC have concluded that it is no longer viable for them to continue, and I can confirm that we have now entered into a period of consultation and discussion with the Archdiocese to address All Saints withdrawal from the LEP. The decision has not been taken lightly, and while there is significant sadness, all parties agree this to be the best option. The process will take some time, and we are currently very much at the start of the conversation. Rev Peter Dawkin will be moving to a new post at St Luke Farnworth on the 23rd Sept, his final service in St Basil & All Saints being 22nd. All Saints will, however, remain part of the LEP until such a time as the withdrawal process is concluded.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to work on the process with Fr Mark and others, and equally grateful to the congregations of St Basil and All Saints, both past and present, for their faithful commitment to the LEP over so many years. I'm more than happy to have a conversation to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Of your charity, could I ask you to commit the process to prayer.

With assurance of prayer,

Fr Harry, Associate Archdeacon St Helens & Warrington.

Deanery Mass

You are encouraged to attend the Deanery Mass at 12 noon on Friday 27th September at St. Benedict's Priory, Warrington, WA2 7QE. This is an opportunity to gather with the people and the priests from across our deanery to pray together. Please, if you can, make the effort and come!

St. Michael's Church Heating

Recently a heating engineer came to St. Michael's Church to service the heating system. The outcome of that visit was that the entire heating system at St. Michael's Church has been condemned and can no longer be used. We immediately contacted the Surveyors Department, and we are currently exploring different options for the heating of the church. We are going to work/consult and be advised by the Archdiocesan Trustees and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Organisation Committee in discerning the way forward. We will keep you informed as we learn more about the situation. The Vision Group

Gift of Life for Zambia Trip to Southport: Wednesday, 23rd October

Our next outing is a trip to Southport. It has lots of shops and eateries. The Atkinson provides a museum, theatre and café by Lord Street Gardens. You can visit Kings Gardens on the prom and its Victorian Tea Rooms, is a treat. We leave St. Basil's Church at 9.30am and return at approximately 5pm. The cost is £16. To book put your money in an envelope marked with your name and telephone number and pass it either to Monica (424 8194) or Angela (424 8668). Or call them for further information and availability. Thank you for your continued support. All profits to our charity.

4th Widnes (St. Bede's) Scout Group – Macmillan Coffee Morning

The 4th Widnes (St. Bede's) Scout Headquarters, Appleton Village are holding a coffee morning on Friday 27th September - 10.30 till 12.30, to raise funds for this worthy cause. All are welcome!