



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Year C)

12th January 2025

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Psalm Response

'Bless the Lord, O my soul !'

January Optimism

The month of January is named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, endings, transitions, and doorways. Janus is often depicted with two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward, to represent his ability to see both the past and future. As we progress through January, we can leave behind past mistakes and negative experiences and create a path towards personal growth and fulfilment. The life of a Catholic makes no sense unless it is a life of constant spiritual growth. To cease to grow in our spiritual lives is to become indifferent to God. Here are four things you might do in January to help you grow.

1. Truly participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Many people attend Mass in a distracted frame of mind. Yet in the Mass we encounter Christ in a unique and unparalleled way. Be fully present and prepared. Do not rush into Church thinking of a thousand things.
2. Take advantage of confession. Sinfulness is part of the human condition, one that separates us from Christ. Christ offers us a way to put our sins behind us and to experience once again His loving embrace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
3. Develop a life of prayer. Every moment is an opportunity for prayer. How often do you take advantage of these opportunities?
4. Encounter Christ in the Scriptures. Reading the Scriptures meditatively can be of enormous help in coming to know Christ.

These things are possible and achievable for us all. Take up the challenge! It can help you feel optimistic about the future. Optimism can energize you and uplift you, and it can help you keep a positive outlook.

Deacon Paul

Sacramental Programme 2025

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Parents Meetings

To enroll your child onto the Parish Programme you need to attend the following meeting. The Sacramental Programme is for children who are in Year 4 and have been baptised as Roman Catholic.

Sunday 26th January

Non-Catholic School – 10.15am Mass and Enrolment after Mass in **St. Michael's Church**.

Tuesday 28th January

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour RC Primary School – **9.15am in OLPS School Hall**

St. Gerard's RC Primary School – 9.15am in **St. Gerard's School**

St. Basil's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Basil's Church**

St. John Fisher RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. John Fisher Church**

Wednesday 29th January

St. Michael's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Michael's School Hall**

St. Bede's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Bede's School Hall**

Our Schools – Thank you

As a result of your generosity to the Advent Appeal to buy Religious Education Resources for our 7 Roman Catholic Primary Schools and St. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic College we are able to gift to each of them **£275**. This means that our Advent Appeal raised £2200, which is just amazing and so generous.

I am sure that each school will buy something needed to enable the children to experience God in a new and exciting way. May God bless you for your kindness.

Fr. Mark

Could you be a Deacon

The Archbishop will be hosting a Diaconate Information Evening on Thursday 30th January 2025 at St John's in Wigan. The evening will begin at 7.30pm and end by 9pm. Refreshments are available from 7pm.

The evening is open to anyone who would like to find out more about the diaconate, especially men who are wondering if they may be called into this ministry. Wives, supporting priests and deacons are very welcome. For further information email Deacon Paul Rooney at: p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk

Lourdes 2025 expressions of interest

Our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes, in association with the annual Archdiocesan pilgrimage, will take place Thursday 24th July until Thursday 31st July 2025. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope', reflecting the Jubilee Year of 2025.

It's also an important year for our Archdiocese as the case of John (Jack) Traynor has been declared a miracle.

If you wish to join us in Lourdes in 2025, please pass your name into the parish office.

Archdiocesan Celebration of the Miraculous Cure of Jack Traynor

Following the announcement in December of the miraculous cure of John (Jack) Traynor, the Archdiocese of Liverpool will be celebrating this historic moment with Mass followed by a drinks reception at the **Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Tuesday 18th February at 7pm.**

We are hoping to offer a coach to take us to the Cathedral for this historic event, the coach will leave St. Bede at approx. 5.45pm and return after the drinks reception. There may be a cost towards the coach but it will be kept to a minimum.

As this parish has a deep devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes it would be good to be well represented at this wonderful Mass.

If you would like to come, **please pass your name and telephone number** into the Parish Office asap. Once we have an idea of numbers we shall move forward.

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.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm – Liturgy Meeting at St. Bede's Presbytery.

Saturday 18th January at 9.30am – Clergy Meeting at St. Bede's Presbytery.

Tuesday 21st January at 9.30am – Buildings and Finance Meeting at St. Bede's Presbytery.

Tuesday 28th January at 6pm – Vision Group at St. Bede's Presbytery.

Saturday 8th February at 10am – Deanery Synodal Council at St. Benedict's, Warrington .

Praying with Parents

St. Bede's RC Infant School and Fr. Mark are offering an opportunity for parents of children in their school to come and pray together. This is a pilot of what Fr. Mark hopes to offer across all the schools in the parish this year. Just 15 minutes of simple prayer will be offered. You don't have to do anything, just simply come and tune in to God!

Tuesday 14th January – Guild Hall (*opposite entrance to St. Bede RC Infant School*)
9.05am – 9.20am and again at 2.55pm – 3.15pm

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of the community. Any safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately.

Safeguarding Lead – Fr. Mark

Safeguarding Reps – Pauline Ruth, Carol Murray and Pauline Rolt.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	12th January	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Winifred Flanagan
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Pauline Noone
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	John O'Brien & Julie Sant
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Majorie Higginson
Monday	13th January		
9.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Morning Prayer		
9.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Anne Davies
Tuesday	14th January		
11.00	Requiem Mass	St John Fisher	Margaret Houghton
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Christopher John Kelly
Wednesday	15th January		
12 noon	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Brian Patrick McKeown
Thursday	16th January		
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Basil	Martin Peter Hassett
Friday	17th January	Memorial of St Anthony	
9.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Morning Prayer		
9.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Patrick Hyland
Saturday	18th January		
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	David Rowlands & Grandson
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Leslie Connolly
Sunday	19th January		
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Nancy Prendergast
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Parishioners
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Richards
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Christina Kenny

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	AJ
St Basil:	Ann & Frank Broome
St John Fisher:	John Ernest Leigh
St Michael:	Marek Skutnik

Requiescant in pace

John Parker, David Abbott,
Kian Rose, Maureen Richardson,
Brendan Coffey & Esme Barron

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

