

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

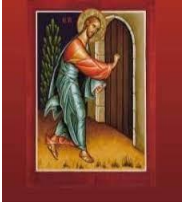
12th March 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

Year A

“Listen!
I am standing
at the door
knocking.”

Rev 3:20



Clergy Team

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Psalm - Please join in the response:

‘O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.’

The Sacrament of Penance

This last week, my brother priests and I had the enormous privilege of hearing first confessions as we accompany our primary school children in their preparation to receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time.

The Sacrament of Penance is perhaps the most beautiful of the seven sacraments, because it is therein that we encounter the true depths of God's loving mercy, which is without limit. No matter how many times we back away from our friendship with God, through our own frailty and sinfulness, He never abandons us but continually calls us into ever deeper relationship with Him.

It is a sad reality in the West that the practice of the Sacrament of Penance is greatly diminished. The optimists amongst us may say that this speaks to a decrease in the need for forgiveness in our present culture, but perhaps there are other reasons besides...

As Catholics, there is a very minimal expectation that we go to confession at least once a year as part of our preparation for Easter. But many of us go far more frequently, and the Holy Father, Pope Francis, happily admits to a fortnightly practice.

Going to confession, as the Pope says, ought not to feel like a torture chamber in which we beat ourselves up over past faults, but a place of beautiful encounter, with the God who is love.

I always say to children preparing for their first confession: “Please do not let your first confession be your last.” Perhaps this Lent offers each of us an opportunity to discover this beautiful sacrament afresh, so that when the Lord comes in glory at Easter, we may go out to meet Him with hearts made pure.

Fr Thomas

LENTEN JOURNEY...

Tuesday 14th March 11.15am at St. Bede's Church

Stations of the Cross – Traditional Stations of the Cross will be recited and prayed before Holy Mass at noon.

Wednesday 15th March, 7am at St. Bede's Church

Early Riser Mass – come and celebrate Holy Mass in the still of the morning.

Wednesday 15th March, 7.30pm at St. Bede's Presbytery

Scripture Group – come and share your thoughts with Fr. Mark on the Lenten Scriptures.

Friday 17th March, 1pm at St. Basil's Church

Stations of the Cross – Traditional Stations of the Cross will be recited and prayed

Please come and walk with Him!



CAFOD - Soup, Sharing and Prayer

On Monday 13th March at 7pm in St. John Fisher Hall, you are invited as part of your Lenten preparations to come and join your fellow parishioners in praying, sharing, and eating together. All money raised will go to help the poorest of the poor in our world. Please come! If you would like to come, can you pop your name through the door at the Parish Office, marked 'SHARING EVENING' or ring the Office and give your name.

This will help with catering, ensuring there is enough food for everyone!

Thank You!

The Knights Choir would like to say a big thank you to all who made donations for its services in 2022. As a result of your generosity the choir was able to pass on donations of £1,000 each to the following good causes.

St Wilfrid's Lourdes Group

Northwest Air Ambulance

Halton Haven Hospice

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Care Support Group

We look forward to your continued support in the future.

Many thanks!

BUY A LILY FOR EASTER

We want the altars in all our churches to look as beautiful as possible to celebrate the greatest feast of the Church's year. Lilies are associated with Easter, a symbol of new life and resurrection.

If you could buy a lily in memory of a loved one at a cost of **£5**, then please pass the name that you would like to be remembered into the parish office. All names will be displayed in all the churches for all donations made. God bless you for your generosity, please mark your envelope 'EASTER FLOWERS'.

GRAND EASTER RAFFLE

Next weekend, we are asking for you to take as many books as possible of raffle tickets that you can to sell to your family and friends. The prizes will be amazing as usual, and all the proceeds of the raffle will go towards the upkeep of all our churches here in Widnes! Tickets will be at the back of Church **next weekend**, please return them to the Parish Office. Raffle will be drawn at Mass on Easter Sunday!

Good luck!

SVP VISITS

We would like to inform the parish that we will start visiting again starting this month, March 2023.

If there is anyone who would like a visit, please let your Eucharistic Minister know, or contact the Parish Office, with your name, address & contact details.

Northern Saints Pilgrimage – Ushaw/Holy Island

21st – 23rd April 2023

Your balance for our time away needs to be paid by Friday 17th March.

If you are sharing a room the balance is £130pp.

If you have asked for a single room the balance is £200pp.

Cheques to be made payable to **St. Wilfrid's Parish** or cash is acceptable.

It looks to be a great time away as a parish family!

Thank you!

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the appeal to help those affected by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey

A total of £1569.94 was raised and was sent to Mary's Meals, which will distribute it to those most affected by this horrific tragedy.

God bless you for your kindness!

Who are the Neocatechumens?

Papal support

The Neocatechumenal Way has received support from every pope since its conception in 1964, including St Pope Paul VI, St John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis. Under Benedict XVI, the Statutes of the Neocatechumenal Way were definitively approved by the Pontifical Council for the Laity, with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith giving its doctrinal approval to the Catechetical Directory in 2010.

Carmen Hernandez, who died in 2016, had her cause for beatification officially opened by Pope Francis on 4 December 2022.

How do the Neocatechumens live their faith?

Last week we spoke about how the Neocatechumenal communities were initiated by Kiko Arguello and Servant of God, Carmen Hernandez, in 1964 in conjunction with the Holy Spirit. This week, we'd like to explain how the Neocatechumens live their faith.

First, it's necessary to understand the Neocatechumenal Way has a missionary impulse. And like Kiko and Carmen in the shanty towns of Madrid, the Neocatechumenal Way seeks out the lost and the faraway from all walks of life. When a community is formed, like the community present here in Widnes, they walk together on this journey of adult faith, where very slowly, each member begins to understand their baptism. This understanding is fostered by a Eucharistic celebration on Saturday, a liturgy of the word mid-week, and one Sunday a month spent together in prayer and communion.

During these meetings and following the announcement of the Word of God, each member has an opportunity to reflect on how God is manifesting Himself in their lives in relation to the Word they've just heard. In this way, the Word becomes an authentic and living influence in the life of the community.

Meeting together as a community and getting to know each other is essential in discovering the loving mercy of God. Finally, to help direct the catechumens in their journey of faith are catechists who accompany the community, providing guidance and support.

Parish Choir

We will be preparing for the Easter Services at our next gatherings which will be on:

Monday, 20th March, St Basil, 7.00pm

Tuesday, 28th March, St Bede, 7.00pm

Tuesday, 4th April, St Bede, 7.00pm

As usual, everyone is very welcome, even if you have not sung before, or been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally.

Parish Liturgy

St Bede's Church is open for private prayer Mon-Thurs 10am-13:00

Sunday 12th March

9.00am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Baby George O'Grady
9.30am Holy Mass (*St Michael*) – Christopher Comiskey, Lately Dead
10.30am Holy Mass (*St John Fisher*) – Frank Broome, Anniversary
11.15am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – George Grace, Lately Dead
16:00pm Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Irene Robinson, Anniversary

Monday 13th March

9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Morning Prayer (*St. Basil*)
9.30am Holy Mass (*St Basil*) – Jamie Quinn, Lately Dead
10.30am Requiem - Norman 'Ginger' Hunt (St. Bede)

Tuesday 14th March

11.15am Stations of the Cross (*St Bede*)
11.45am Funeral Service - Declan Smith (St. Michael)
12 Noon Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Pat Evans, Lately Dead

Wednesday 15th March

7.00am Holy Mass – (*St Bede*) – Residents of Care Homes
18.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Evening Prayer
19.00pm Holy Mass - (*St Bede*) – Margaret Brennan, Lately Dead

Thursday 16th March

11.30am Funeral Service - Edward Connolly (St. Bede)
11.30am Exposition the Blessed Sacrament (*St Michael*)
11.40am Holy Rosary (*St. Michael*)
12 Noon Holy Mass (*St. Michael*) – Kevin Murphy, 90th Birthday Remembrance

Friday 17th March

09.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*St. John Fisher*)
09.10am Morning Prayer (*St. John Fisher*)
09.30am Holy Mass (*St. John Fisher*) – Special Intention (MMC)

Saturday 18th March

10.00am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Colette Poole
10.30am Confessions and Rosary (*St Bede*)
17.00pm Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Norah Warren, Birthday Remembrance
17.00pm Holy Mass (*St Basil*) – Joyce Mannion, Anniversary

Sunday 19th March

9.00am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Parishioners
9.30am Holy Mass (*St Michael*) – Ken Douglas Riley, 80th Birthday Remembrance
10.30am Holy Mass (*St John Fisher*) – Mary O' Brien, Anniversary
11.15am Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – George and Leah Sadler, Birthday Remembrance
16:00pm Holy Mass (*St Bede*) – Michelle Spencer (Adams), 8th Anniversary

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede: **Raymond Norris**
St Basil: **Peter Golson**
St John Fisher: **Norman Hunt**
St Michael: **St. Wilfrid's Parish**

Please pray for those who have recently died...

**Dominic Murray, Margaret Bate, Ernest (Ernie) Hatton,
Lawrence Brennan, Terry O'Hanlon,
David & Sheila Howard**

May they rest in peace and rise in glory!