

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

17th September 2023

2nd Collection: Home Missions

Parish Office:

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Parish Clergy:

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Fr Thomas Clarke 0151 424 6641

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Bishop John Rawsthorne 0151 424 2738

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna



Responsorial Psalm

R. 'The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy'

Visit to the Child of Prague

I was invited to join a group of 20 on a 4-day trip to Prague. On the morning of departure, we were taken by minibus at 4am to Manchester for a 6.40 am flight. Arriving at Terminal 3 we discovered that one of the suitcases was left behind, 'everyone worst nightmare'. After the initial shock and recriminations, with telephone calls going back and forward, the suitcase was found and was speeding its way by taxi to the airport. The owner of the suitcase and her companion stayed behind with a 'I'll catch you up' while the rest of us booked ourselves in. With all the confusion about the missing suitcase and the time wasted, I made a fatal mistake by going with a member of the group for a cup of tea and, not realising the time, missed the flight by three minutes. So, there we stood with a look of disbelief on our faces when two more of the group came tearing down the corridor towards the gate. No amount of pleading would persuade the attendant to let us board. I don't know if you ever missed a flight but boy, what a horrible feeling..... I was so looking forward to going to Prague. As we were going through the process of reclaiming our suitcases and planning our trip back home, out through the exit door appeared one of the two ladies who had stayed behind for meet the taxi with the missing suitcase. "We missed the flight too". But don't give up she said, EasyJet has a flight to Prague this evening from terminal 1 at 7.15 pm but it means a new one-way ticket!! 'Oh, let's do it' we cried in unison. We eventually arrived at our hotel in Prague just after 10 pm local time. The other members of our party were there to welcome us to the Hotel William. I fell into bed that night with exhaustion!

The following morning, we had a breakfast to die for, full English, baskets of different breads, cakes, tea, coffee, hot chocolate if you are into that in the morning, juices, cereal etc..... enough to set you up for the day.

Mass at the church of Our Lady of Victory where the statue of the child of Prague is enshrined was just ten minutes from the hotel. The custodian of the church invited the group into the sacristy after Mass for a special blessing of the statue of the Child of Prague. (I have plenty of the prayer cards if anyone would like one!) We then had a guided tour around the old city; the famous clock in the main square, crossing the Charles bridge, a tram ride up to the castle. The city was alive with music and the great weather only added to the visit.

Apart from the disappointments of those first few hours on day one our trip to Prague was a wonderful experience.

Fr Bill

Parish Choir

The next meetings of our Parish Choir are Monday 25th September, Tuesday 24th October & Monday 27th November at 7pm in St Bede's Church. As usual all are welcome, even if you have not sung before, or been a part of this group previously, or you are only available to come along occasionally. All are welcome!

Church Cleaning

Our cleaners at St Basil's are looking for new volunteers to assist them in the weekly cleaning of the Church. This would include the regular cleaning of the main church, porch, and sacristy, but also the internal brickwork and fascia boards. If you feel you can serve in this role, please see either the sacristans, or Fr Thomas after Mass. Thank you to all our cleaners for their hard work throughout the year.

Bene Merenti Award

Pauline Ruth

It is with great joy and with the warmest of congratulations that I can announce that Pauline Ruth has been awarded the *Bene Merenti* medal by His Holiness, Pope Francis. This award is a 'Gold Medal' for 'Exemplary Christian Service'. Pauline does so much to safeguard our community and we know her work with refugees and migrants is at the heart of her Christian vocation of service. Pauline, we applaud you!

Bishop Tom Neylon will join us on **Wednesday 11th October at St Bede's Church, at 7pm** to celebrate Holy Mass and bestow the award on Pauline. Please make a note of this date and make every effort to attend.

After Mass there will be a reception in the presbytery with cake and bubbles!

Fr Mark

Gift of Life for Zambia: Afternoon Tea Cruise of Liverpool's Friday 13th October

Enjoy the splendour of a tour around Liverpool's historic docks with a relaxing cruise immersing yourself in the city's marine heritage. Afternoon Tea includes a three-tier cake stand with assorted sandwiches, mini cakes and two fresh scones with clotted cream and jam, accompanied by a pot of English breakfast tea.

The coach leaves St. Basil's and All Saints Church at 2pm and returns home at approximately 6pm. Cost is £33. Money to be placed in an envelope with name and phone number please. Further details from Monica (424 8194) or Angela (424 8668). All profits to Gift of Life for Zambia.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

R.C.I.A.

Are you thinking about becoming a Roman Catholic? Would you like to know more? Would you like a space and time to ask questions? Are you a Catholic who wishes to know more about your faith?

The **R.C.I.A.** is a process of accompanying people in their faith journey, there is no expectation or pressure, rather a 'walking with' model of deepening faith and exploring the vast treasures of the Roman Catholic Church.

If you, or you know someone who is interested in starting this time of discernment then please pass your name, address and telephone number into the parish office or e mail stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk and one of the **R.C.I.A.** Team will contact you, answer any questions you may have and let you know when the group will meet!

There will be a Taster Evening in the Guild Hall at 7.45pm on 20th September 2023 for all who are interested in joining us. Make a leap of faith and start a wonderful journey!

Requiescant in pace

Thomas Weaver
Raymond 'Ray' Ellis
Terence Delaney

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Fr Vincent Furlong
St Michael	William Hickey
St John Fisher	Archdiocesan Seminarians
St Basil	Refugees and Migrants

Family of Parishes Roadshows: 4th, 7th, 8th November

The Pastoral Plan makes clear the way forward for the church in our Archdiocese. It says this: "Developing the models of pastoral collaboration that we already have we will create families of parishes." In the future, we will work as Families of Parishes.

To explore what this means, there are 3 roadshows planned. These are open meetings for anyone and everyone to come. They will take place on Sat 4th Nov from 10.00am – 12 noon at St Margaret Clitherow Centre. Tuesday 7th Nov 7:00pm – 9.00pm at St Anne's Pastoral Centre in Ormskirk and Wednesday 8th Nov 7.00pm – 9.00pm at St Julie's Eccleston, St Helens.

For further information, please contact Fr Philip Inch: p.inch@rcaol.org.uk.

Mass Intentions

If you would like to have a Mass offered for a loved one or for a special occasion on a specific date and in a specific Church, then you must request it as soon as possible.

As we are blessed with 4 churches, it is quite a task accommodating everyone's needs and requests, so please ask as soon as you can using the sheets at the back of every church.

Thank you!

Fountains of Living Water Women's Autumn Conference

Speaker: Ruth Clarke is a wife and mum of four children. Community Pastor at Life Church Warrington, travels as an itinerant Worship Leader, Speaker, Songwriter and Recording Artist.

Worship: Linda Wooding & Team from Christian Life Centre .

Date: Saturday 7th October 2023, 10am – 16:00pm (Registration from 9:30am).
Penketh Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Penketh,
WA5 2NB.

Cost £20.00 Lunch Included
Please inform of dietary requirements

To book: clcsthelens.org.uk/events

The Knights Choir

We are seeking to recruit new members to help with the work we do in our community. We are best known for the support we give to bereaved families at funerals. However, we also entertain at local venues, fifties and sixties classics feature greatly in our repertoire. Last year we raised over £4.000 for local charities. If you would like to join us, make new friends, and help in the local community, please come along! No audition required, uniform is provided, and all engagements are within the Widnes area. We practice most Wednesday mornings in St John Fisher Hall. For details, please phone Brendon 0151 420 0611 or Roy 0151 424 1924.

What Is Synodality?

Since the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis has been highlighting the importance of cultivating synodality in the Church. The word 'synodality' comes from a Greek word meaning 'walking together'. So, synodality is about all of us, God's people, journeying together, listening to each other, learning to make decisions together, and sharing our gifts along the way.

Canon David Heywood, Dean

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	17th Sept	Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Christine Bradshaw (LD)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Anthony Karalius (80 th Birthday Rem)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Marie Jones (LD)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	June Rolt (Anniversary)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret Corcoran (LD)
Monday	18th Sept	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Sean O'Reardon (Dublin)
Tuesday	19th Sept	Ferial	
12 noon	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Joan Kelly
Wednesday	20th Sept	Memorial of St Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest & Martyr	
18.30	Exposition & Evening Prayer		
19.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Chris Nickson
Thursday	21st Sept	Feast of St Matthew the Apostle	
10.45	Funeral Service	St Bede	Evelyn Saltman
11.30	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
12 noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Margaret & Thomas McCann & Family
14.15	St. Bede Junior School Mass in Church Case and Kenny Families		
Friday	22nd Sept	Ferial	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
09.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	George Sadler (Anniversary)
12 noon	Requiem Mass	St. Michael	Elizabeth Bellard
Saturday	23rd Sept	Ferial	
10.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Tom Cabe (Birthday Remembrance)
10.30	Confessions		
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
17.00	Vigil Mass	St Basil	Jimmy Williams (LD)
Sunday	24th Sept	Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Richards (2 nd Ann)
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Tony Gray (LD)
10.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Mary Rath (Ann)
11.15	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ian Valentine Pemberton (Ann)
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	S.V.P.