



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



7th July 2024

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) Next Week 2nd Collection: Priests in Retirement

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Rt Rev Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 2738
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Responsorial Psalm

R. Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy.

Taizé – a way of praying

You may have noticed on the Parish Liturgy page of the Newsletter an item that announced a Taizé Prayer Service at St Basil's church. It has appeared twice over the months. I was invited to both and want to spread the word. Taizé, in eastern France near the Swiss border, is one of those places I would like to have visited, but never got round to it. It is a very large ecumenical monastic community of not far off a hundred men, Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants and others.

It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger as a place of safety for those fleeing the Nazis. Eventually, the authorities caught up with what was going on and he fled back to his native Switzerland. When it was safe to do so, he reopened at Taizé. In 1949, seven men joined him to live a life in the footsteps of Jesus in simplicity, celibacy and community. The first Catholic, a Belgian doctor, joined in 1969.

By 2005, Taizé was world renowned, sending small groups of its monks to support communities in many countries. In fact, its monks hail from thirty different countries. But in that year, the very elderly Br. Roger was murdered by a person with a mental illness. His funeral was a wonderfully ecumenical occasion with ten thousand people present. Cardinal Kasper, Head of the Commission for Church Unity, presided. Bishop Nigel McCulloch, then Bishop of Manchester, represented Rohan Williams of Canterbury, the President of Germany was there, the Orthodox churches were present.

Nowadays, Taizé is a great centre for Youth Pilgrimages. Perhaps a hundred thousand youngsters a year attend for a week at a time. Prayer, Bible Study and Work. And Taizé has contributed to devotion everywhere, especially with its sung chants. We occasionally sing one at Communion. And those sung chants form the meditative background to the St Basil's Prayer Service, along with spoken prayer and scripture readings, but it is the music that is distinctive, and it is St. Basil's music makers who have initiated these Services for us. God bless them.

Bishop John

St Bede's Restoration

Last Thursday some members of the Buildings Committee met with the contractors and the architects, and the outcome is that we have a date for the work to start in the restoration of St Bede's Church. On the **22nd July** the work will begin and we shall see scaffolding being erected around the church and the much-needed work on our beloved church will start in earnest. As ever, we ask for your understanding and patience in the weeks and months ahead as we will need to adapt and change to keep the project on task and on time and so, not incur additional expense.

St Wilfrid pray for us!
St Bede pray for us!

Singers for the Farewell Mass

The Farewell Mass to Bishop John, Fr Bill and Fr Thomas on Tuesday 16th July at St Michael's Church is an expression of our desire as a community to say 'thank you' and to pray for them as they move onto the next chapter. *'He who sings, prays twice'*, said a very noble saint!

So, all singers in our parish who would like to join in helping to enhance the music at this Mass, are invited to come to a practice on **Tuesday, 9th July at 7pm** at St Basil's Church.

Everyone is very welcome!

Pilgrimage 2025 to Medugorje

We are hoping to go to Medugorje in Bosnia/Herzegovina next year on pilgrimage. The first apparitions that were reported there were in 1981 and it is alleged that Our Lady delivered a message of peace and conversion. Many people believe that Our Lady continues to appear in this place to the visionaries. At this time Medugorje is not recognised officially by the Roman Catholic Church, but hordes of Catholics come to this place seeking a deeper union with God and Our Blessed Lady.

If you would like to find out more about coming on this pilgrimage with our parish, there will be a short meeting **on Monday 15th July at 7.30pm** at St Bede's Church.

Fr Mark & Susan Warburton

Lay Led Liturgy

Over the past few months, 5 people from our parish have been working with Dcn Paul, exploring the place of lay led liturgy in a parish setting. These five people will lead 'Services of the Word' and sometimes it will be appropriate to offer Holy Communion at these services too. During August these fellow parishioners will offer these liturgies to their fellow parishioners, and I know we will show our support and our gratitude to them for their willingness and their bravery in stepping out and offering times of prayer in the community when Mass is not possible.

Please pray for our new ministers, **Andy West, Wayne Murray, Ann Kenwright, Frances Atherton, Elaine Davies and Linda Mellor.**

May God bless them in their ministry amongst us!

Requiescant in pace

Josephine Dockerty
John Ellis

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Eileen Lee
St Michael	Confirmation Candidates
St John Fisher	Ordinands to the Priesthood
St Basil	Special Intention

Farewell Mass

You are all invited to bid farewell and say thank you to Bishop John, Fr Bill and Fr Thomas at Mass.

Tuesday 16th July at 7pm at St Michael's Church.

You are then invited to St Basil's Parish Centre for drinks, tea and cakes! We hope you can come and thank God for the ministry of three priests who have served faithfully here.

Confirmations

Please pray for the 21 young people who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on

Tuesday 9th July at 7pm at St Michael's Church.

We welcome Bishop Tom Neylon to our parish as he confers this sacrament on them, that they may all be refreshed in their journey of faith and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives.

'Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love, send forth your spirit and they shall be created and thou shalt renew the face of the earth'

Sacramental Programme Catechists

There will be a meeting and some lunch for all catechists of the First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion Programme on **Monday 15th July at 12.30pm** in St. Bede's Presbytery. This will give us all a chance to reflect on what we offer to the children in our care in the content and delivery of the programme.

If you can join the meeting, please e mail Pauline Rolt to let her know.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is at the heart of all we do here in St Wilfrid's Parish.

Safeguarding Lead – Fr Mark

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

Any safeguarding concerns, no matter how small, should be reported immediately.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	7th July	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Kevin Butler
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	John Joseph Mulroy
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	William Adrian Glynn
16.00	Holy Mass	Holy Family	HF Parishioners David Hughes
17.00	Lourdes Departure Mass	Metropolitan Cathedral	Assisted Pilgrims
<i>(Please note this Mass is at 5pm, NOT 3pm as printed in last weeks newsletter)</i>			
Monday	8th July	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Roy Nelson
13.30	Funeral Service	St Basil	Carole Ann Brimble
Tuesday	9th July	Ferial	
10.00	Funeral Service	St Bede	Margaret Mercer
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Michael O'Grady
19.00	Confirmation Service		
Wednesday	10th July	Ferial	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Basil	Marie Clemson
14.00	Y6 Leavers Mass	St Michael	St Michael's Pupils
Thursday	11th July	Feast of St Benedict, Abbot, Co-Patron of Europe	
11.30	Exposition and Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Michael	Jennie Baker
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Mary Philomena Atherton
Friday	12th July	Ferial	
09.00	Exposition and Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Gerald O'Connor
12noon	Requiem Mass	St Bede	Eileen Lee
Saturday	13th July	Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	David Edmund Tirrell
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Fr Bill Murphy
Sunday	14th July	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Burke
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Peter Farrell
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	William Les Dean
16.00	Holy Mass	Holy Family	HF Parishioners