

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE (YEAR A)

23rd April 2023

Parish Office:

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Parish Clergy:

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Fr Bill Murphy	0151 495 1854
Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 2738
Fr Philip Carr (Priest in residence)	0151 424 4021

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna



Responsorial Psalm

R. 'Show us Lord, the path of life.'

Philately – Helping the Missions!

I have been asked many times about what happens to all the used stamps that are collected in the four Churches of the parish.

Since I was a young boy, I have always been interested in stamp collecting (philately), a hobby that has given me many hours of pleasure over the years. Sadly, it's one of those hobbies that has lost its attraction for many today.

Collecting used stamps that would otherwise find themselves in the recycling bin is a great way of supporting local charities. One of those charities is the 'Leprosy Mission of Great Britain'. I was amazed to discover how many areas of the world are still working tirelessly in their battle to eradicate Leprosy.

Our little effort here over the years collecting used postage stamps to help this charity has been greatly appreciated. However last week I received the news that the charity would no longer be accepting them.

Through the grapevine I've learnt of another charity called 'Project Zimbabwe', based at Bishop Eton in Woolton, to which we can give our used stamps in the future. I'm hoping to get some details of that project and will pass them on. In the meantime, keep bringing your used postage stamps to church; they are greatly needed. A big thank you to all of you for time and effort.

Fr Bill

Votive Candles

The custom of lighting votive candles before images of the saints is an ancient and laudable devotion that unites us with the Communion of Saints in Heaven. However, the lighting of votive candles should not take place during Holy Mass or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, when the sole focus of our prayer should be Our Blessed Lord truly present in the Eucharist.

Private Prayer

St Bede's Church is open for private prayer Monday to Friday from 10.30am until 13.30pm, except for funerals.

You are encouraged to come in and spend some time in prayer for your own needs, the needs of the Church and the world.

Parish Archives

Our Catholic heritage in Widnes goes back a long, long way. We now have a dedicated space to store all the archives and historical memorabilia relating to all the former parishes in Widnes. The archives include items such as, photographs, booklets, artefacts, parish notices going back over 100 years. Now is the chance for you to get involved and ensure that your family is included in these records. If you have something you believe would enhance our archives (this may be an artefact from one of the churches or a photograph of a parish event such as First Holy Communion, May Procession, Wedding etc.) and would like it to be stored in the Parish archives then send your item with as much information as possible (family names, date, church etc.) to the Parish office marked 'Parish Archives.'

Sacramental Programme

The children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion continue with their catechesis this week, all leading up to the great day when they will receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. They will also all gather on **Saturday 29th April at 12 noon** for Holy Mass at **St. Michael's Church** as part of their preparations. Please keep the children in your prayers.

Welcome to the Missionaries of Africa

This weekend we welcome Fr. Michael Heap and His Eminence, Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald who will be making an appeal for their missionary work across the world and celebrating the Weekend Masses.

Please make our visitors very welcome and be as generous to their appeal as you always are!

Social Group News

'9 to 5, The Musical'

On Wednesday 17th May we shall go to Manchester to see St. Dunstan's Amateur Operatic Society perform this show. They are an amateur group, but everyone who came to see them last year, when they performed 'Betty Blue Eyes' had a wonderful evening together. Lots of laughter and fun and a 16-piece orchestra to boot!

The coach will leave St. Bede at 6pm and we will return by 11pm, if you would like a ticket, please pop your name, telephone number and £20pp into the parish office and we will reserve you a ticket.

'Get outta bed and stumble to the kitchen, pour myself a cup of ambition and yawn and stretch...'

Upcoming events

October – 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at the Liverpool Empire Theatre.

December – Advent Dance in St. Basil's Parish Centre

April 2024 – Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Knock, Ireland.

Requiescant in pace

Fr. Vincent McShane, Patricia Jenkins, Joseph Brennan, Stephen Rossiter, Anne Andrews, Terence Lloyd, Catherine Woodward, Stephen Marsh.
May the Angels lead them into paradise!

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede	Patricia Ayers
St Michael	Mary Wood
St John Fisher	Anne Noon
St Basil	Geoffrey Golson Jnr

Can you help?

Due to the several church closures and amalgamations of recent years, we are now the custodians of several important devotional items which we would like to bring back into liturgical use. Over the next few weeks, we hope to send the statue of Pope St Pius X that stood in that church for many years to be professionally cleaned and restored, so that parishioners may pray before him once more. We would also like to restore the brass ship sanctuary lamp, that lived in Our Lady's so that it may be rehung in honour of Our Lady. If you can make an offering towards both or either restoration, please enclose your offering in an envelope entitled: 'St Pius X', or 'Sanctuary Lamp', and submit to the Parish Office.

Thank you!

Rebrand

The eagle-eyed amongst you will notice this week's newsletter looks rather different. We have decided to rebrand, to give things a fresh look. In addition to the remodeled newsletter, new parish letterheads and signage, featuring our patron, Saint Wilfrid, will be phased in over the coming weeks. We also intend to redevelop the parish website in the coming year and further develop our social media presence. It is hoped that these changes will make important information more accessible to parishioners and bolster the parish's presence in the town at large.

Red Mission Boxes

In 2022, St Bede's raised £3,608.20 through the Red Boxes to support our missionary communities abroad. *Missio* is the Pope's charity for World Mission, and your support and contributions toward projects has improved life immeasurably for so many of those in need of our strength and prayers.

Stations of the Cross

Just prior to Holy Week, the Stations of the Cross returned to St Michael's after painstaking restoration and reframing. Years of dust and grime have been cleared away and they now sit in worthier frames. Our thanks to all who donated towards the restoration works. Please do call when church is open for Mass to see them.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to all who supported the Easter Raffle. We raised approximately £1500, which will go towards the restoration of our parish churches.

The following are yet to collect their prizes:
J Lyons & Francis Richards.

Please call into the Parish Office at your convenience to claim your Easter prize.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday 23rd April

9.00am Holy Mass
 9.30am Holy Mass
 10.30am Holy Mass
 11.15am Holy Mass
 4.00pm Holy Mass

Third Sunday of Eastertide

St Bede Peter Thompson
 St Michael Marese Hudson, Anniversary
 St John Fisher George Edward Lythgoe, 3rd Anniversary
 St Bede George Joseph Grace, Lately Dead
 St Bede Michael McKeown, Birthday Remembrance

Monday 24th April

9.00am Exposition
 9.30am Holy Mass
 12 noon Requiem Mass

St George, Martyr, Patron of England, Solemnity

St Basil
 St Basil Deceased Members Radcliffe Family
 St Bede Patricia Jenkins RIP

Tuesday 25th April

10.00am Requiem Mass
 11.30pm Exposition
 12 noon Holy Mass

St Mark, Evangelist, Feast

St Bede Joseph Brennan RIP
 St Bede
 St Bede Mick Bass, Sick

Wednesday 26th April

6.30pm Exposition
 7.00pm Holy Mass

Easter Feria

St Bede
 St Bede Monica Davidson, Birthday Remembrance

Thursday 27th April

10.45am Funeral Service
 11.30am Requiem Mass
 11.30am Exposition
 12 noon Holy Mass

Easter Feria

St Bede Stephen Rossiter RIP
 St Basil Anne Andrews RIP
 St Michael
 St Michael Theresa Topping, Sick

Friday 28th April

9.00am Exposition
 9.30am Holy Mass

Easter Feria

St John Fisher
 St John Fisher Lee Taylor, Peg & Jonny Burns, Ann

Saturday 29th April

10.00am Holy Mass
 10.30am Confessions
 6.00pm Vigil Mass
 6.00pm Vigil Mass

St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor, Feast

St Bede Bereavement Mass, Peter Lyons
 St Bede
 St Bede Peter Lowery, Anniversary
 St Basil Parishioners

Sunday 30th April

9.00am Holy Mass
 9.30am Holy Mass
 10.30am Holy Mass
 11.15am Holy Mass
 4.00pm Holy Mass

Fourth Sunday of Eastertide

St Bede Joseph Stanley Wright, Anniversary
 St Michael Eileen Martin, Birthday Remembrance
 St John Fisher Norman (Ginger) Hunt, Lately Dead
 St Bede Canon John Marmion
 St Bede Elizabeth Syze & George Roberts