

# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



## Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**This week second collection is for SVP**

### Parish Clergy:

Rev Fr Mark Moran (PP, Moderator) 0151 422 1772  
Rev Fr Peter Ross 0151 422 1772  
Rev Deacon Paul Rooney 0151 422 1772

### Parish Office:

St Bede's Presbytery  
Appleton Village  
Widnes  
Cheshire  
WA8 6EL

**T:** 0151 422 1772

**E:** [stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk)

**W:** [stwilfridswidnes.uk](http://stwilfridswidnes.uk)

### Psalm Response

**'Come, Lord, and save us.'**

### Alleluia Verse

**'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim  
good news to the poor.'**

### Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

### Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

## Advent - are we tourists or are we pilgrims?

Without due attention, Advent can become a mixed bag of chocolate calendars, shopping, office parties, merriment and activity, activity, activity!

The Church takes a leap beyond this and observes a penitential preparation for the coming of Christ in history, mystery and majesty. In this holy season, John the Baptist exhorts us to once again "repent!" The word "repent" in the original Greek means 'to turn around' or 'to have a change of mind'. Having a change of mind looks like: going to individual confession, participating in the Mass more fully, reading scripture (the first few chapters of Luke are a good idea), fasting and being more generous. To do Advent is to put God first.

But are we tourists or are we pilgrims? An Advent tourist passes through the season, admiring the pleasant sights, sampling the cuisine and buying souvenirs. Touring through Advent leaves little place for spiritual gain.

We ought to be Advent pilgrims. An Advent pilgrim engages by confessing their sins, praying, reflecting, fasting and performing good works. By doing this, we make room for Christ. Walking a pilgrimage through Advent leaves so much room for real gain. The grace of God gets to shine through and transform our lives.

Don't be a tourist...be a pilgrim!

**Fr. Peter**

## Christmas Mass Times

### Christmas Eve

4.30pm – St. Bede  
4.30pm – St. Basil  
6pm – St. John Fisher  
6pm – St. Michael  
11.30pm - Carols – St Bede  
12 Midnight – St. Bede

### Christmas Day

9am – St. Bede  
10.15am – St. Michael  
11am – St. Bede  
Boxing Day  
12noon – St. John Fisher

## Parish Carol Concert

Please make a note in your diary! The Annual Parish Carol Concert takes place at 3pm on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December** at St. Basil's Church. The children from some of our primary schools, the Widnes Catholic Children's Choir and students from St. Peter and Paul Catholic High School will be present to offer some Christmas magic. The Parish Choir will be there to lead us in welcoming the Christ Child into our parish, into our hearts and into our homes. Please come along!

## Advent Candle

This Sunday we light the third candle on our Advent wreath. **The Shepherds Candle (Joy)**. The third candle, often pink, stands for joy. It celebrates the joy the shepherds felt when the angels announced Jesus' birth, calling us to rejoice in God's presences. As we look at the Advent wreath growing in strength as each candle is lit, let us pray that our faith is strengthened and we may know more and more that Jesus, Emmanuel, our God, is with us!

## Foodbank

Widnes Foodbank would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas. We are so lucky to have such a supportive and generous community around us. Thank you to everyone who donates and supports the Foodbank. Please would you continue to support us as Christmas approaches, helping those who are most in need in our community. If you are able to donate food the most needed items are below.

***Please note that we cannot distribute items which contain alcohol.***

Christmas Goodies, Long Life Juice, Tinned Beef/Chicken/Ham, Tinned Mince Beef/Steak, Toiletries, shampoo and Washing Up Liquid.

## A Christmas Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, open our hearts to Your coming with renewed faith and joyful expectation. This jubilee year has brought us hope and promise and as this year of Pilgrims of Hope draws to a close, may we be granted the graces we have received to be richer, anchored in faith and hope. May the light of Bethlehem guide our steps, a light that pierces every darkness, a light that steadies the weary and lifts up the broken-hearted, a light that teaches us to see one another as brothers and sisters, a light that leads us along paths of justice, peace and reconciliation. Let this gentle, radiant light shape our desires, brighten our homes and communities and accompany us on our pilgrimage towards Your Kingdom. May the peace of Christ be with us. **Amen**

## UCM Christmas Bingo

UCM Members would like to thank everyone who supported their Christmas bingo. £413 was raised. This year we have raised £871 in total for local charities. Thank you all for your generosity and support.

## Offerings at Christmas

In the past, the Easter and Christmas collections went straight to the priests as their Christmas gift from the parish. **This practice stopped a long time ago!** Yet many people still think is still the practice. Every penny of the collection goes into the parish coffers to pay for lights, heating and repairs and towards the mission of the community. If you wish to give a gift to the priests at Christmas the only way they can accept it is if it is in an envelope with their name on it, otherwise it should rightly go to the community. We write this to clear up any confusion regarding this practice, but did we tell you...*"you look lovely today!!"* **Fr. Mark & Fr. Peter**

## Advent 2025

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at St. Basil's Church**

*Fr. Mark will lead a Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. If you have a **photograph of a person (alive or dead), or a specific intention**, who you would like to hold in this Holy Hour, please bring it with you and there will be an opportunity during the hour to place that person or intention before Jesus. Please come and spend time with Him, who looks on us in love.*

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at St. John Fisher Church**

*At our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service you are invited to come and have your sins forgiven with individual confessions so that you may experience powerfully and wonderfully, the healing of Jesus.*

## Advent Appeal – Trinity Safe Space

*Instead of buying something for a friend or family member for Christmas that they do not need, why not buy an item for someone that really does?*

Trinity Safe Space charity continues to support more people new to us who need all sorts of things. Thank you very much for donating to us in the past. We currently need the following: these items must be new, as they are being given as gifts this Christmas.

**Men** - boxer shorts small, medium and large; men's warm socks - sizes from 7 – 11, warm beanie hats, scarves and gloves, men's small/medium joggers, jeans , waterproof small and medium warm jackets, men's trainer's sizes 7 to 10.

**Women** – warm hats and scarves and gloves (please remember, we have far more men than women), sanitary pads (not tampons), umbrellas and a small number of women's classic style briefs in small, medium and large.

**General** - washing up liquid, washing powder or capsules, warm duvets for single beds, backpacks.

Please bring them to church or the parish office from where they will be collected.

Thank you very much, for your kindness.

**Pauline Ruth. Chair of Trustees**

## Advent Raffle

Raffle tickets are available for you take home and sell them to your friends and family! The raffle will be drawn on **21<sup>st</sup> December** in time for Christmas! Fantastic prizes and hampers!

## St. Wilfrid's Parish Calendar 2026

Stop the press! We have purchased some 2026 calendars of our wonderful parish. Each month there are different photographs of our churches, inside and out. They are just £5 each and can be purchased at the back of church. We did not get lots this year as we were unsure how many people would like one, so be quick and you will not be disappointed!

All proceeds from the sale of the calendars will go to the upkeep of all our churches. What a lovely stocking filler it would be.

## Parish Liturgy

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Patrick (Paddy) Ruth
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Michelle Spencer (Adams)
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jimmy Goss
<b>15.00</b>	<b>Advent Carol Service</b>	<b>St. Basil</b>	

*Please note that due to the Parish Carol Concert there will not be a 4pm Mass today.*

<b>Monday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Week 3 of Advent</b>	
09.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Eric Whitfield
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>St Bede</b>	<b>Patrick Brian Kirwan</b>
<b>19.00</b>	<b>Holy Hour 'The Visitation'</b>	<b>St Basil</b>	

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Week 3 of Advent</b>	
<b>12noon</b>	<b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>St Bede</b>	<b>Veronica (Roni) Ann Murray</b>
<b>18.00</b>	<b>Carol Concert</b> <b>(St Michael's School)</b>	<b>St Michael</b>	

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Week 3 of Advent</b>	
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>St Michael</b>	<b>Paul Waters</b>
11.30	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St Bede	Graham Cleary

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>18<sup>h</sup> December</b>	<b>Week 3 of Advent</b>	
09.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Michael	Joan Wilcox
<b>19.00</b>	<b>Advent Reconciliation Service</b>	<b>St John Fisher</b>	

<b>Friday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Week 3 of Advent</b>	
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>St John Fisher</b>	<b>Harry Palin</b>

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Vigil of Fouth Sunday of Advent</b>	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Tom Baker
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Marie Cullerton

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Margaret & Kenneth Bate
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Marie Morris
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	George Grace
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners

### Sanctuary Lamp

*The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.*

<b>St Bede:</b>	<b>Winifred Burns</b>
<b>St Basil:</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>
<b>St John Fisher:</b>	<b>Tony Rath</b>
<b>St Michael:</b>	<b>Joan Wilcox</b>

### Rest in Peace

**Ellen (June) Horabin**

**May the Angels lead them into Paradise!**