



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Year A)

16th August 2026

Parish Office:

Monday to Friday: 9:30-16:30
(unless stated in newsletter)

Parish Clergy: 0151 422 1772

Rev. Father Mark Moran (Parish Priest, Moderator).

Rev. Father Peter F. Ross (Parochial Vicar).

Rev. Deacon Paul Rooney.

Rev. Deacon Paul Whitehead.

St Bede's Presbytery

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Psalm Response

"On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir."

Gospel Acclamation Verse

"Mary has been taken up into heaven: the host of angels rejoice."

The Little Way in Everyday Moments

In our fast-paced world, we often look for God in grand gestures, dramatic breakthroughs, or monumental achievements. However, St. Thérèse of Lisieux beautifully reminds us that the fullness of God's love is most profoundly mirrored in the smallest, seemingly ordinary details of our daily lives. Her timeless "Little Way" teaches us that we do not need to perform heroic deeds to please God or spread His light. Instead, we are called to do ordinary things with extraordinary love, transforming routine actions into sacred offerings.

When we pause and look closely, the beauty of the Creator is woven into the very fabric of the small things around us. It is found in the quiet warmth of a morning cup of tea, the gentle patience required during a tedious task, or a genuine smile offered to a stranger passing by. St. Thérèse compared herself to a tiny flower in God's garden, recognising that every small blossom plays a vital part in the beauty of the landscape. By opening our hearts to this perspective, our daily commutes, household chores, and brief interactions cease to be distractions and instead become a canvas for His grace.

Sharing the love of God does not require a massive platform or a perfect script. It begins right where we are, through tiny acts of kindness that ripple outward in ways we may never fully see. A thoughtful text message to a friend, a moment of silent prayer for someone who looks troubled or choosing to listen intently without interrupting are all ways we scatter the seeds of His kingdom. This week, let us challenge ourselves to slow down, notice the hidden beauty in the minor details of our day, and intentionally share God's immense love through our smallest actions.

Fr. Mark

An Update from the Vision Group: Planning for Our Future

As part of our commitment to keeping you informed, we want to share an update on our ongoing work to secure the future of our Catholic community here in Widnes.

Recent Progress

Back in May and June, the Vision Group presented a preliminary report to the Archdiocesan Trustees. The Trustees reviewed this report and have asked us for some further clarification. Specifically, they want to ensure that all options for the future mission of the Catholic Church in Widnes demonstrate long-term financial and pastoral sustainability to cover the needs of the entire parish.

What is Happening Now?

We are working hard to ensure everything is ready to go back to the Trustees in time for their next formal meeting in mid-September. Our goal throughout this process is to provide a completely transparent and clear picture of where we stand today. Everything we do is aimed at safeguarding and supporting the Catholic family in Widnes for many years to come.

Working Together

Please rest assured that this continues to be a deeply collaborative effort. We have taken into detailed account:

- The extensive work and research of the Parish Exploration Group.
- The Parish Audit containing parishioners survey responses.
- Feedback and responses from our open consultation gatherings.
- Direct feedback from our conversations and meetings with the Trustees and the Archbishop.
- Guidance from the Archdiocesan Finance Department.

Next Steps

- By the end of August, the Vision Group must send the identified options to the Archbishop and the Trustees of the Archdiocese for their consideration at the September meeting.
- Thank you for your continued patience, prayers, and support as we shape the future of our parish community together.

Parish Vision Group – Peter McCann, Susan Warburton, Pauline Rolt, Denise Roberts, Dcn. Paul Whitehead, Dcn. Paul Rooney, Fr. Peter and Fr. Mark

Mill Hill Missionaries

I wish to express heartfelt thanks to all at St Wilfrid's parish for the wonderful support that was given to Missio/Mill red box appeal. Some signed up for Red Boxes, Gift Aid and Direct Debit. A total donation of £255 was received on the contactless. This again is a wonderful expression of how much you are all still prepared to give. Thank you to Fr Mark and Fr Peter, for all the arrangements and providing such a good environment to stay. Thank you to our Missio secretaries, Carol, Helen and John. We do appreciate everything you do for Missio. May God Bless you all at St Wilfrid's.

Fr Noah

Used Stamps

Fr Bill sends his thanks to all who place their used stamps in the boxes provided at the back church. He gratefully asks that you continue to do this.

Enrol a Loved One in St. Wilfrid's Mass Association

Our beautiful Mass Association cards are a meaningful way to remember a deceased loved one or celebrate a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary. For a £10 offering, the person enrolled will be included in a monthly Mass for one full year.

To participate, simply fill out the enrolment slip found at the back of our churches and return it in the provided envelope to a sacristan, the Parish Office or a member of the clergy team. The Mass Association Cards are also available the Parish Office during office hours.

Food Bank

I'm writing to say thank you for the cash and food donations to Widnes Foodbank from St Wilfrid's Parish. As donations have dropped considerably in the current financial climate, we are very grateful for these contributions. It is only due to the goodwill of people like you that Foodbank can work as well as it does. Your food donations this year have totalled 76.4 kg, equating to 182 meals, which is a great help. We still need your continuing help to feed those in our community who are in need over the school holidays. If you can donate food to us, our current most needed items are tinned vegetables, tinned spaghetti, tinned fruit, custard/rice pudding, ice, 1 Litre UHT milk and pet food.

Katie Smith, Widnes Food Bank

R.C.I.A.- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Would you like to become a Roman Catholic?

Would you like to know more about your faith and have the time to talk to others about big questions?

The RCIA programme is a time of discernment for adults who wish to learn more about the Roman Catholic faith, and after a time of prayer and contemplation, may wish to join the Church and become Roman Catholics. The programme runs from mid-September till May and requires a weekly commitment. If you would like to know more, please leave your contact details at the Parish Office and Pauline Rolt will contact you or come along to our enquiry/enrolment evening on **Wednesday 26th August** from 7pm – 8pm in the Guild Hall opposite the entrance of St. Bede's RC Infant School.

Young Catholics in Widnes

Twenty-one of us enjoyed a day pilgrimage on Saturday 8th of August to 'Arrowsmith House', the house of the last Mass of St. Edmund Arrowsmith, followed by two sessions focusing on the history and development of the Mass with Maria Hall (Pastoral Liturgist) at St. Mary's Church in Leyland. Thank you to Fr. Joseph Bibby (former Parish Priest of St. Wilfrid's) and his team for hosting us so well and for giving us a thorough tour of the Church. Equally, thank you to SS. Peter and Paul High School for the use of the minibus and to other parishioners who helped with transport. The next event will be confirmed in the newsletter next week. Stay tuned! See picture below of us all outside Arrowsmith House. Follow us on Instagram: @young_catholics_in_widnes



Parish Liturgy

Sunday	16th August	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Baby Wendy Gibbins
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	Marie Morris
16.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Angela Milloy
Monday	17th August	Monday Week 20 in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Marie Golson
Tuesday	18th August	Tuesday Week 20 in Ordinary Time	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St. Basil	Claire Davies
10.00	Funeral Service	St. Bede	Thomas Simpson
Wednesday	19th August	Wednesday Week 20 in Ordinary Time	
No Mass or Service			
Thursday	20th August	Memorial of St Bernard	
No Mass or Service			
Friday	21st August	Memorial of St Pius X	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Ann Widdecombe
Saturday	22nd August	Vigil of the Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time	
16.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Parishioners
Sunday	23rd August	Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Rita Hennesy
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	Martin Hunt
16.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Rita Hamilton

Parish Office

Next week, the Parish Office will be open Monday – Friday from 09.30 – 13.30.

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for 7 days for your intention

St. Bede:	Baby Wendy Gibbins
St. Basil:	Jesus Shoulder Pain
St. John Fisher:	Birthday Remembrance (SC)
St. Michael:	James & Julia King

Rest in Peace

Maureen Hughes, Thomas Glynn,
Margaret Reardon, Alexander Standen,
Jean Inheter, Margaret (Lilian) Woodward,
Mark Hyland & Jean Smith.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!