

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

18th January 2026

Parish Office:

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

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

T: 0151 422 1772

E: stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk

W: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Psalm Response

'Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.'

Alleluia Verse

**'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who did receive him,
he gave the authority to become children of God.'**

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

How ordinary is Ordinary Time?

In the reflection last week, I mentioned that we are now in the time of year the Church names as 'Ordinary Time'. At first sight, use of the word 'ordinary' might suggest that there is nothing special about this time, that there are no distinctive features. It might even suggest that it is dull. Indeed, in our day-to-day understanding we use the word 'ordinary' to describe things that are nondescript or dull. Nothing could be further from the truth when it comes to understanding Ordinary Time.

The word 'ordinary' can also mean customary, regular and orderly. Ordinary Time may also be called Ordinal Time, which means numbered time. Ordinal comes from the Latin *ordinalis* which means showing order, suggesting an order of succession. Again, in our day-to-day use of the word, 'ordinary' can mean customary, regular and orderly. So, Ordinary Time when used in a Church context is the standard, orderly, counted time outside of the other liturgical seasons. Be assured that there is nothing dull about Ordinary Time!

The period of Ordinary Time that we are in at present lasts until the day before Ash Wednesday, which is Shrove Tuesday. It focuses on the childhood of Jesus and then on the public ministry of Christ. Jesus's childhood established His human growth in wisdom and favour with God, demonstrating obedience, humility, and the value of all people. His public ministry revealed His divine mission through teachings, miracles, and compassion, authenticating Him as the Son of God and calling humanity to childlike trust and service, showing how His quiet upbringing prepared Him for His transformative adult life.

Gosh! Isn't Ordinary Time rather exciting?

Dcn Paul

Welcome Archbishop John

This weekend we welcome Archbishop John Sherrington to St. Basil's, St. John Fisher and St. Michael's Churches in our Parish of St. Wilfrid for the first round of his Visitation. He will return on the 1st February when he will be at St. Bede's Church. You are very welcome + John and we are blessed by your presence amongst us!

Parish Financial Profile

Available at the back of each church this week are copies of the 2024 financial profile we have prepared for our parish. This is an overview of our income and expenditure. The purpose of this is to provide parishioners with a summary of the financial 'state of play' for the whole of St. Wilfrid's Parish Community. Going forward we will report on the 2025 year as the accounts are finalised, and how the finances develop during 2026. Many thanks to Sylvia and the members of the Buildings and Finance Committee who have prepared this profile for us all.

Widnes and Warrington Deanery Mass

There will be our monthly Deanery Mass on **Friday 30th January** at 12noon at St. John Fisher Church. Please come along and pray as a deanery for our work and our mission to build the Kingdom of God, here in this place.

St Wilfrid Lourdes 2026 Parish Pilgrimage

We are planning to journey to Lourdes as a parish again this year in conjunction with the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage. The dates this year are **Wednesday 22nd July until Thursday 30th July 2026**. We will be staying in the Hotel Roissy, and the cost is £1155 for an 8-night stay based on 2 people sharing, with a single room supplement to be added as appropriate.

Several people intend to journey again this year, and it is open to anyone who would like to come - **you are very welcome**. If you would like to find out more about the pilgrimage or put your name down to travel with the parish, please pass your name and contact details into the parish office and once we have an idea of people who are interested, we will arrange a meeting with the booking forms and get deposits paid and sent off.

Denise Roberts and Dcn. Paul

Christian Unity Service

To mark Christian Unity Week 2026, we will celebrate a special liturgy together on **Wednesday 21st January 2026** at **19:00** at St. Bede's church. The ministers and congregations of the other Christian communities in Widnes have been invited to join us. There will be refreshments served afterwards. Pope Leo XIV has called upon all Christians to work together for unity, indeed as he said in November of last year "*the restoration of unity among Christians does not make us poorer; on the contrary, it enriches us.*" Come along and implore the Father for the gift of unity, a gift for which the Son prayed!

Mary Poppins – Liverpool Empire

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! Off we go to see Mary Poppins at the Liverpool Empire Theatre on **Thursday 29th January**! The coach will depart from outside of St. Bede's Church at **6pm** and we will return as soon as the show finishes. There are a couple of places left for the show, please contact the Parish Office and ask for your details to be passed onto Susan Warburton and she will contact you if we still have availability!

Deanery Synodal Council

Please keep in your prayers the members of the DSC who meet on **Saturday 24th January** here at St. Bede's. Their work continues, so that every part of our lives here can be done in a synodal way, as well as reflecting and planning for the good of all, across our deanery.

St. Wilfrid's DSC Reps: Peter McCann, Susan Warburton, Denise Roberts, Pauline Rolt, Dcn. Paul, Fr. Peter and Fr. Mark.

Parishioners Voices Matter! - Pastoral Development Strategy

As you read and heard last weekend, the Pastoral Development Strategy has been launched in the Deanery of Widnes and Warrington. The first task that we have to engage in is to gather information for the parish audit, to get an authentic picture of our parish community.

Yet the real task for us as the working group, is to **listen** to the people of our parish. We will offer different ways of doing this. Firstly, there will be a questionnaire that will be available to fill in to reflect upon the questions that we have been tasked to answer. Secondly, there will be meetings offered to gather, listen and respond. We hope that every person in our parish of St. Wilfrid participates and has their voice heard.

Ways to Participate

31st/1st February – Questionnaires will be available at the back of all churches. We ask that they are returned the following weekend, **7th/8th February**.

Tuesday 10th February - After the 12 noon Mass in the Guild Hall there will be an open meeting.

Wednesday 18th February - At 7pm in St. Basil's Church there will be another opportunity to gather together.

18-35 Group – Fr. Peter will engage in a discussion with this group so that their voices can be heard.

R.C. Primary and Secondary Schools in Widnes – Fr. Mark will engage with our schools so that they can be part of the discussions.

We also encourage you to have discussions at home, with your friends from the parish, in your parish group meetings, as the broader the conversations are, the better response we can make to the Archdiocese.

Thank you, in anticipation of your support.

Pastoral Development Strategy Working Group – Fr. Mark, Peter McCann, Pauline Rolt, Denise Roberts, Fr. Peter and Dcn. Paul.

Sacramental Programme 2026

We begin our sacramental programme, preparing our Year 4 children for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion by meeting with their carers/parents to explain the programme and offer enrolment onto this year's programme. The meetings are as follows.

Sunday 25th January

Non-Catholic School Children – 10.15am Mass and Enrolment after Mass in **St. Michael's Church**

Tuesday 27th January

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour RC Primary School – **9.15am in OLPS School Hall**

St. Basil's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Basil's Church**

St. Gerard's RC Primary School – 9.15am in **St. Gerard's School**

St. John Fisher RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. John Fisher Church**

Wednesday 28th January

St. Michael's RC Primary School – 2.30pm in **St. Michael's School Hall**

St. Bede's RC Primary School – 7pm in **St. Bede's Church**

A letter has been given to every child in our own Catholic schools and to the schools which are non-Catholic, but if you know of a child who is Catholic, in Year 4, and does not go to one of the parish schools, please bring them on the **25th January** to St. Michael's Church and they can be enrolled.

Fr. Mark and Parish Catechists

Social Group Meeting

There will be a meeting for the Social Group on **Wednesday 21st January at 12.30pm** at St. Bede's Presbytery. We will be looking at the Easter Dance and other social activities for our community to enjoy!

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	18th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Michael O'Grady & Patrick Hyland
10.45*	Holy Mass	St Michael	Bill Hunt & Michael Noone
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Marie Comer
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Stephen O'Connor & Norah Phillips
Monday	19th January	Week 2 in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Graham McKenna
Tuesday	20th January	Week 2 in Ordinary Time	
10.00	Funeral Service	St Bede	Arthur Tudor
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Rev Thomas Carroll
Wednesday	21st January	Memorial of St Agnes	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	John Roberts
19.00	Christian Unity Service	St. Bede	
Thursday	22nd January	Week 2 in Ordinary Time	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Michael	Margaret and Michael Cain
Friday	23rd January	Week 2 in Ordinary Time	
10.00	Funeral Service	St Michael	Elleanor Whiteside
12noon	Funeral Service	St Bede	Terence John Roberts
Saturday	24th January	Vigil of Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Danny Lynch
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	The Roberts Family
Sunday	25th January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Bridget & William Hickey
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Marjorie Higginson
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Sam Kamski

Parish Choir

Our next practice is on **Monday 26th January, 7pm in St. Bede's Church.** All Welcome.

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intention.

St Bede:	Michael O'Grady
St Basil:	Archbishop John
St John Fisher:	Patrick Hyland
St Michael:	John Harrison

Rest in Peace

James Norman Hignett,
Joseph Alan Smith, Joyce Connolly,
John Joseph Council, William Alan Moran
John Reg Murtha, Tony Thompson ,
John Paget & Jean Ashworth Stott.

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!