

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Year C)**

20th July 2025

**Second Collection
'Provisions for Priests in Retirement'**

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Appleton Village
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Parish Clergy:

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Psalm Response

'O LORD, who may abide in your tent ?'

Art in the Parish of St. Wilfrid

We are blest with many excellent works of art here in our Parish of St. Wilfrid. The crucifix at St. Basil is one such masterpiece.

Here is a description of it, which I found in our archives:

"Entering the church your eyes are naturally drawn upwards to the crucifix high on the wall behind the altar. It was designed and painted by Stephen Foster and took six months to complete, as a great deal of study and experiment was necessary; it is based on the early Tuscan crucifixes that were very much part of religious expression in the Middle Ages. The colouring was achieved using an egg tempera technique, which was developed by the monks and artists of the early church. It is a process of mixing raw pigment and egg yolk. Christ is depicted with eyes open, expressing resurrection and victory over death. God's love is symbolised in the red of the garment; His Holy Spirit is portrayed in the yellow arch; and His Godhead is expressed in the hand at the top of the painting and the blue background. The earth-coloured diamond designs depict the falling of God's grace on mankind. From the wound in Christ's side come blood and water, symbols of the humanity and divinity. They flow into a chalice as a reminder that at the Eucharist we partake of his body and blood."

So, next time you're at St Basil's, stop and appreciate this beautiful image. It has caused me to stop and pray on a few occasions, and I often point to it when I am preaching. Stephen Foster, the artist, is notable for his work on the St. Joseph Chapel at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool and for his reredos at Northampton Cathedral. May this great holy image of Christ crucified inspire your devotion and lead you closer to God.

Fr Peter

An Update on St. Michael's Church

There will be an open parish meeting with representatives from the Archdiocesan Trustees as well as diocesan officers on **Monday 4th August at 7pm at St. Basil's Parish Centre**. At this meeting we will hear a fully updated report, and statement, about the future of St Michael's church from those representatives. All are welcome to attend.

Parish Vision Group

Update on DBS Rechecks and Applications

Thank you to all who have attended our DBS recheck and sign up sessions over the past few weeks, your forms have now been sent off to the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team to be processed.

Next Steps...

Please look out for the email, which will be sent out sometime in August, this needs to be completed and returned, via email, within a week of receipt. (This does not apply to parishioners who have not submitted an email address). Many thanks for your support in ensuring this important process is in place across our parish.

Safeguarding Team

Lourdes at Home – Tuesday 29th July

Our pilgrims are getting ready for their time of pilgrimage with Archbishop John and the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to our Lady's Shrine in Lourdes. For those of us unable to attend we shall mirror a day in Lourdes so that we can be truly with the whole Archdiocese in Lourdes. This day will take place at St. John Fisher Church.

7am – Mass of St. Bernadette.

12noon – Service of Anointing the Sick and a light lunch in the Parish Hall.

7pm – Rosary and Torchlight Procession.

Congratulations St. Basil's RC Primary School - Outstanding

Following a thorough and rigorous evaluation, I am pleased to confirm that St. Basil's received 'Outstanding' in all areas of the Religious Education Inspection conducted by Inspectors appointed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool under Section 48 of the Education Act from 12-13th March 2025. This designation of 'outstanding' featured in all areas including the Catholic life and mission, religious education and collective worship.

This report highlights the strong Catholic ethos that permeates every aspect of school life at St. Basil's. The Inspectors wrote, *'The pupils are exemplary ambassadors for the school and live to serve others by being the face of Christ to all...St. Basil's is a place of genuine welcome and inclusion...Pupils actively live out the mission, 'We Love, Learn and Succeed following Jesus with commitment and enthusiasm.'*

I am especially proud of the report's recognition of the close partnership between St. Basil's School, our families, and the parish community. Fr. Mark and Fr. Peter, your ongoing support, encouragement, and shared commitment to faith and learning are deeply appreciated and have contributed greatly to this outstanding outcome. On behalf of the Governors, I would like to thank you for continuing to support the Catholic mission of St. Basil's School. Let us all celebrate this achievement and continue to work together to nurture the academic, social, sporting and faith of every child in our care.

James J. Duffy B.A. (Dunelm), B.Ed., (Hon. causa), P.G.C.E., Q.T.S.

Chair of Governors

Trinity Safe Space charity

Thank you so much for your generous donations of goods to our charity. They have all been given out and gratefully received. We forever need men's clothes particularly small and medium at the moment, toiletries and men's bicycles if anyone can provide those for us.

Pauline Ruth

LGBTQ+ Mass

This **Sunday 20th July** we shall welcome the members of the LGBTQ+ community and their families for Mass at **St. Basil's Church** at **2pm**. All are welcome! Further information and support can be given by Canon Stephen Maloney.

Summer Timetable – Masses

The summer starts with the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and the month of August and early September gives us all a chance to recharge, step back and take some time. This is much needed, especially for our clergy who need a break too!

It is nigh on impossible to get cover for the weekend of **26th/27th July**, as so many priests are in Lourdes, so Fr. Mark will be on his own and the number of Masses we have is too much for one priest. So, on that weekend **ONLY** the Masses will be.

Saturday 26th July

4.30pm – St. Basil

6pm – St. John Fisher

Sunday 27th July

9am – St. Bede

10.15am – St. Michael

From **27th July till 14th September** – No 4pm Mass at St. Bede.

Weekday Masses will still be celebrated, please check the newsletter each week. Also, during the month of August, the **Parish Office** will be open from **9.30am – 1.30pm**.

Please note the Parish Office will close on Thursday 24th July at 12.30pm.

Lourdes Petitions and Parish Candle 2025

Our parish pilgrimage leaves for Lourdes on Wednesday 23rd July. It is Catholic tradition in Lourdes to ask for prayers in memory and in hope. If you would like a petition (prayer intention), please drop it in to the parish office, marked for my attention or e-mail me, p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk and I will take it to Lourdes with me. Your petition will be placed at the Grotto in Lourdes and your intentions prayed.

Whatever your needs are, prayer can provide Catholics with strong belief, to any situation one may be faced with. Many people find prayers assist them in everyday life and with any difficulties they may have before them. We understand that your intentions are sacred. You can be assured that they will be kept strictly confidential.

Our Lourdes pilgrims will also light a parish candle and pray for your petitions and intentions. We welcome donations towards buying the candle. Please drop these into the parish office, marked for my attention. **St Bernadette – pray for us! Our Lady of Lourdes – pray for us!**

Deacon Paul

Parish Choir

If you have not sung before, or not sung for years, or haven't been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally, it doesn't matter, you will be most welcome. Due to safeguarding guidance all members of the choir must be over 18. Our next practice this **Tuesday 22nd July, at 7pm** in St. John Fisher Church.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	20th July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Parishioners
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Mary & Joseph Davies
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Peter Richards
14.00	LGBTQ Holy Mass	St Basil	Brenda Thistlewaite
			Steve Cawley
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Richard & Lilian Shaw

Monday	21st July	Ferial	
10.00	Y6 Leavers Mass	St Gerard's School	
14.00	Y6 Leavers Mass	OLPS School	
14.00	Y6 Leavers Mass	St Michael	
18.00	Y6 Leavers Mass	St Bede's Junior School	

Tuesday	22nd July	Feast of St Mary Magdalene	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Roy Nelson

Wednesday 23rd July
No Mass or Service

Feast of St Bridget

Thursday	24th July	Ferial	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12.00	Holy Mass	St Michael	Mary & Joseph Freeman

Friday	25th July	Feast of St James	
09.00	Exposition & Morning Prayer		
09.30	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Mary & Joseph Hyland

PLEASE NOTE CHANGED MASS TIMES - THIS WEEKEND ONLY

Saturday	26th July	Vigil of Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Deceased Members of Bonnon Family
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Bill Cullerton

Sunday	27th July	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Fr Matthew Nunes
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	In Thanksgiving
St Basil:	Mia Robinson
St John Fisher:	SS. Peter and Paul School
St Michael:	Special Intention

Rest in Peace

David John Ramanouski, Mia Robinson,
Moria Kelly, Henry (Harry) Doyle,
Thomas Melvin, James Dowling & Nora Newall

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!