



# Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



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

**27<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Second Collection - SVP**

**Parish Office:**  
St Bede's Presbytery  
Appleton Village  
Widnes  
Cheshire  
WA8 6EL

**Parish Clergy:**

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Sylvia Cawley  
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**Psalm Response**

**'On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord'**

## **'I am the Immaculate Conception'**

I've visited Lourdes many times, but I can't recall a single occasion when in Lourdes, I've heard a homily or talk specifically about the purpose of the apparitions.

We have our own interpretations of Lourdes' purpose (healings, community, youth, service) but in reality, the 'Immaculate Conception' is the central purpose. After all, the statue in the grotto proclaims, "I am the Immaculate Conception." But what exactly does this mean? In my experience, most people think the Immaculate Conception refers to Jesus' conception in Mary's womb. However, it actually refers to Mary's conception in the womb of her own mother, St. Anne. Shock! Horror! What?

The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary ensured that Jesus, who is fully God and fully human, had a suitable dwelling place, a temple free from sin and corruption, within which to reside when conceived in Mary's womb. It's crucial to distinguish between the 'Immaculate Conception' and the 'Annunciation.'

In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, confirming the ancient belief that Mary was free from original sin from the moment of her own conception. Four years later, in 1858, the apparitions in Lourdes occurred. During the sixteenth apparition, the vision identified itself, proclaiming, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Thus, Our Lady confirmed Pope Pius IX's declaration four years later at Lourdes. Remarkably, St. Bernadette, despite her illiteracy and even failing her 'first holy communion examination,' was able to convey the vision's use of this complex theological term to her parish priest, who was won over instantly afterwards. This is the point of Lourdes. Much to ponder.

**Fr Peter**



## St. Michael's Church

Following the announcement last weekend of the open meeting on the 4th of August at St Basil's Parish Centre regarding St. Michael's Church, the Vision Group met with Mgr. Philip Inch (Episcopal Vicar of Pastoral Organisation and Synod Implementation). Mgr. Philip gave us more information regarding the content of this open meeting.

Mgr. Philip told us that Martin Miller (Chief Operating Officer at the Archdiocese) will provide an overview of the archdiocesan finances and provide an explanation of the decision of the trustees in relation to the heating system. Also, Kirk Williams (Senior Surveyor) will take us through the quinquennial inspection (the five yearly report on the condition of the building) and the wider issues regarding St. Michael's Church.

The meeting will be chaired by Mgr. Philip on behalf of the archdiocese. This will be followed by an opportunity for questions and clarifications regarding the information shared, to ensure all voices are heard. We urge all parishioners of St. Wilfrid's to attend and take part in this meeting.

Following the open meeting of the 4th of August, the Vision Group would like to offer further opportunities of consultation so that all parishioners can be heard. The following meetings have been arranged:

- **Sunday 17th August after 10:15am Mass**  
**at St. Michael's Church.**
- **Thursday 4th September at 7pm**  
**at St. Bede's Church.**

In addition, you can email your views to the Vision Group on [m.moran@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.moran@rcaol.org.uk) or send a written response to the parish office 'FAO The Vision Group'. The deadline for responses is **Friday 5th September**.

The Vision Group will collate all parishioner contributions and pass them onto Mgr. Philip Inch who will share them with John Sherrington, Archbishop of Liverpool.

The Vision Group.

*(Peter McCann, Fr. Mark Moran, Denise Roberts,  
Pauline Rolt, Rev. Paul Rooney, Fr. Peter F. Ross, Susan Warburton).*

### SVP

The parish of St. Wilfrid is always so generous in their support of the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society – thank you ! We now have Gift Aid envelopes which will be placed at the back of our churches, if you prefer you could now use these envelopes, so that the Gift Aid can be claimed from HMRC, please take one and return them with your donation enclosed.

This is a good way to increase your donations if you pay tax. Again, we thank you for your generosity in serving the poorest in our community.

## The Closeness of God

Have you ever felt that God is very close?

It maybe looking at a beautiful landscape or at Holy Communion or whilst lying awake at night and prayer comes easily? This is called "Thin Time" or sometimes a "Thin Place". Its special and reaches into our very being. We believe and feel God's love and place within us.

## Scripture Reflection: Thin Time



## The Special Place of Night

The night can be one of those "Thin Times". If we find difficulty in sleeping, the night can be dreaded as a restless and even fearful time, but it can be the place where we can be at peace and find a special place to listen and talk to a loving God who is very close to us. We can find the silence and quiet a peaceful way to come close to that loving father Jesus reveals in the Gospels, who is forgiving and supporting us. The early hours can be a place of great spiritual development and encouragement.

"Night is not only the absence of light, but a space for a profound reflection and spiritual renewal and the entrance of divine grace." Peguy

## "O my beautiful night I created you first"

Charles Peguy's greatest poem is called "Night". In it God talks to us about his great love of the first of his creations, Night. It is an incredible scripture reflection on this passage in Genesis 1. "darkness covered the face of the deep". This darkness is the greatest gift to his creation. It's a time of replenishment, when all creation rests and recovers from the toil of the day. Its more than the Sabbath's rest: it is a time given to our very nature, free and cherished by God himself as an integral part of Creation to all creatures, animals, plants and humans. It's a time to find God within us.

"O my daughter of the great heart, I created you first,

And well I knew what I was doing".

### Night Reflection:

Firstly, be aware that you are wakeful, and just listen to your breathing.

Begin to breathe slowly in and out, counting to six in and four out.

Slowly bring to mind all the things in life you are grateful for and give thanks to God for all the blessings you have.

Rest in that space slowly breathing and be aware of the closeness of your loving father

"Night you are holy, Night you are great, Night you are beautiful." Rest in that space.



# Parish Liturgy

PLEASE NOTE CHANGED MASS TIMES - THIS WEEKEND ONLY

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede    Fr Matthew Nunes
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael    Parishioners

**Monday**    **28<sup>th</sup> July**    **Ferial**  
**No Mass or Service today.**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> July - Lourdes at Home Day</b>	<b>Memorial of Ss Martha, Mary, and Lazarus</b>
07.00	Mass of St Bernadette	St John Fisher    Patricia Short
12noon	Service of Anointing	St John Fisher
19.00	Rosary & Torchlight	St John Fisher

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Ferial</b>
11.00	Requiem Mass	St Michael    David John Ramanouski

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Memorial of St Ignatius</b>
9am	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher    Mary Purcell
<b>(Please note Mass will start at 9am)</b>		

**Friday**    **1<sup>st</sup> August**    **Memorial of St Alphonsus Liguori**  
**No Mass or Service today.**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	<b>Vigil of Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil    Joan Fenney
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher    George Brady

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	<b>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede    Terence Morton
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael    Patrica & Peter Rouski
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede    Parishioners

## Sanctuary Lamp

*The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.*

<b>St Bede:</b>	Eddie Tague
<b>St Basil:</b>	Special Intention
<b>St John Fisher:</b>	Michael O'Grady
<b>St Michael:</b>	Marie & Derrick Eaton

## Rest in Peace

Henry (Harry) Doyle, Moira Kelly, Thomas Melvin,  
James Dowling, Eddie Tague,  
Elizabeth Matthew, Nora Newall & Robin Whitfield

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