



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

27th September 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.

Psalm Response

"Remember your compassion, O LORD."

Gospel Acclamation Verse

**"My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me."**

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

T: 0151 422 1772

E: stwilfridswidnes@rcaol.org.uk

W: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Office Manager:

Sylvia Cawley

Administrator:

Deborah Kenna

Finding Holy Joy in the Smallest Moments

In a world that constantly tells us to think bigger and chase after the next monumental success, our Catholic faith offers a beautiful, counter-cultural invitation: to slow down and find holy joy in the small things. When we look at the lives of the saints, we see that holiness is often built not on extraordinary deeds, but on extraordinary love poured into ordinary moments.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, known affectionately as the "Little Flower," famously pioneered what she called her "Little Way." Living within the hidden confines of a Carmelite monastery, Thérèse knew she would never preach to vast crowds or travel the world as a missionary. Instead, she sought sanctity in the mundane. She found joy in folding laundry, sweeping floors, and bearing the small irritations of community life with a silent, loving smile. Thérèse taught us that "*nothing is small in the eyes of God*" and that we can turn the most routine tasks into a beautiful prayer simply by offering them up with love. Centuries earlier, St. Francis of Assisi discovered this same secret to joy by embracing radical simplicity. Francis looked at the world around him—from the grandest sun to the humblest blade of grass—and saw the reflection of a loving Creator. By stripping away the distractions of wealth and worldly status, Francis unlocked a profound capacity for gratitude. For Francis, a crust of bread, a kind word shared with a stranger, or the warmth of the sun were all reasons to burst into songs of praise.

This week, let us challenge ourselves to walk the path of these two great saints. Let us look for God not in the loud and spectacular, but in the quiet spaces of our day. Like St. Thérèse, let us bloom where we are planted and like St. Francis, let us remember that the simplest joys are often the ones closest to heaven.

Fr. Mark

'You'll never walk alone' – Show in Manchester

Join us for a wonderful evening of music, laughter, and friendship! We are heading to Manchester for the latest musical show performed by the fantastic St. Dunstan's Amateur Operatic Society. This is a cabaret-style musical show (not a play) where we will be seated around tables, and a bar will be open for refreshments throughout the evening.

- Departure: 6:00pm outside St. Bede's Church on **Wednesday 11th November**.
- Return: Approx. 10:30pm
- Cost: £25 per person (includes premium seating and coach travel)

Tickets always sell out quickly. To secure your place, please submit your name and telephone number, plus £25pp, to the Parish Office marked for the attention of **Susan Warburton**.

*'When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high and
don't be afraid of the dark!'*

St. Bede's Catholic Infant School

St. Bede's RC Infant School will be hosting an open morning for prospective parents/children looking for a school place for September 2027. The Open Morning will take place on **Saturday 3rd October** between 10:30am and 12pm. All are welcome.

Are you an RCIA 'Graduate'?

If you are one of our wonderful RCIA Alumni from last year, or from previous years, we would love to invite you to a Reunion Social at **7pm** on **29th September** in **St Basil's church (Please note change of venue)**. Grab a drink and a piece of cake and let's get together to talk about the future and how we can accompany each other, and our fellow parishioners, to keep growing in faith as we continue to make St Wilfrid's a wonderful place to be!

St Wilfrid's RCIA Team

Neo-Catechumenal Community

It is with great joy that we welcome the Neo-Catechumenal Community back to the parish of St. Wilfrid. The community will gather for two weekly sessions, and everyone is warmly invited to attend:

- **Holy Mass:** Every Saturday evening at 7:00pm at St. Basil's Church.
- **Catechesis:** Every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm at St. Basil's Church.

All are welcome to join these times of worship and spiritual growth.

Fr. Mark

Gift of Life for Zambia: Trip to Skipton

Our next trip, on **Wednesday 14th October**, is an old favorite and needs little introduction. Skipton is the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales. We leave St. Basils at 9.30.a.m. and return at approximately 6.30.p.m. The cost is £20. To book please put your money in an envelope marked with your name and telephone number and pass it on to Monica (424 8194) or Angela (424 8668).

Northern Saints Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage to St. Cuthbert's Seminary and Holy Island is now fully booked! If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please pass your name, telephone number and the type of room you require, into the Parish Office for the attention of **Susan Warburton**, and if a place comes up, she will contact you. Many thanks!

Young Catholics in Widnes

Next event: **Friday 9th October, 18:00 at St. Basil's**, 'A balanced view on Vatican II - a talk by Fr Mark Drew'. Social to follow. Find us on Instagram: [young_catholics_in_widnes](#).

Fr Peter

Start of Term Mass

On **Wednesday 30th September**, all staff and governors from every Roman Catholic school in Widnes will gather to celebrate Mass together. This communal celebration offers a meaningful opportunity to pause and reflect on past achievements while asking for God's blessing on all future endeavors. Because children and young people remain at the absolute centre of everything these schools do, the community is warmly invited to pray for them as they continue to journey in faith. Holy Mass will be celebrated in Ss Peter and Paul Catholic College and we are all indebted to them for their hospitality.

A Hidden Gem on Our Doorstep

St. Anne and Blessed Dominic Church in St Helens is a hidden gem so close to us here in Widnes. A fortnight ago, a group of parishioners attended the annual Mass there, celebrated by Fr Peter, in honour of Venerable Elizabeth Prout.

Elizabeth Prout founded the Sisters of the Cross and Passion and remains a powerful inspiration for those who work with and care for the poor, especially women. Her witness of faith and service continues to speak to us today.

Elizabeth is buried there alongside Blessed Dominic Barberi, a Passionist priest who helped spread Catholicism in England in the nineteenth century, including the conversion of John Henry Newman. Also buried there is Venerable Ignatius Spencer, who, like Dominic, devoted his life to the conversion of England to the Catholic faith.

All three are buried in the beautiful chapel, and all three are candidates for sainthood. The church and chapel are on our own doorstep, a place of history and holiness.

Next year, we are all encouraged to attend the annual Mass and take inspiration from these people whose lives of faith and service continue to point us towards God.

Elizabeth Prout, Dominic Barberi, and Ignatius Spencer - pray for us!

St. Wilfrid's Parish Choir

New members are warmly welcome to join the choir, regardless of whether you are completely new to singing, returning after many years, a past member, or only able to attend occasionally. Please note that due to safeguarding guidance, all choir members must be over 18.

Our upcoming practices will feature a new venue and a date change. We will meet at 7pm in St. Basil's Church on the following dates: **Tuesday 6th October, Monday 26th October, Monday 9th November, and Tuesday 1st December**. All are welcome!

Ss Peter and Paul Catholic College – Sound of Music

Our spectacular school production of The Sound of Music will take to the stage on the **20th and 21st October**, and tickets are now on sale.

Ticket prices:

Standard £8 and Concessions £5

Get your tickets via TicketSource - go to ticketsource.com/pandpchs

Join us for this feel-good musical, as Maria the spirited, compassionate governess who brings music, love, and joy to the von Trapp family while discovering her own path in life.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	27th September	Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Margaret Wilson
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	Margaret Mulroy
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Alex Standen
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Parishioners
Monday	28th September	Monday Week 26 in Ordinary Time	
09.30	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St. Basil	
10.00	Funeral Service	St. Bede	James Joseph Burgess
Tuesday	29th September	Feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	
11.30	Funeral Service	St. Bede	Peter Gibbs
14.00	St. Michael's School, Feast Day Mass	St. Michael	June Pye
Wednesday	30th September	Memorial of St Jerome	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St. Bede	Mary Dorothy Shropshire
16.00	Widnes Catholic School Mass	Ss Peter and Paul RC College	Terania Gosney Martyn Rouski
Thursday	1st October	Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus	
11.00	Celebration of Priesthood Mass	St. Margaret Clitherow	Robbie Ross Margaret Todd
Friday	2nd October	Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels	
10.30	St. John Fisher School Mass	St. John Fisher	Pat Whalley
Saturday	3rd October	Vigil of the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
15.30	Confessions	St. Basil	
16.30	Holy Mass	St. Basil	Lily Dagnall
18.00	Holy Mass	St. John Fisher	Margaret Burke
Sunday	4th October	Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Kath Baker
10.15	Holy Mass	St. Michael	May McPhillips
11.30	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Margaret Condron
14.00	Catenian Mass	St. Basil	Catenian Society
16.00	Holy Mass	St. Bede	Kenny & Case Families

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for 7 days for your intention

St. Bede:	Ann Coffey
St. Basil:	Robbie Ross
St. John Fisher:	Brenda Thistlewaite
St. Michael:	Declan Smith

Rest in Peace

Brian James, Robbie Ross & Margaret Clarke

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!