



Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

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



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

6th July 2025

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St Bede's Presbytery
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Psalm Response

'Cry out with joy to God, all the earth'

Ora et Labora

Next Friday, we will venerate St. Benedict, Abbot and Co-Patron of Europe. Benedict was born around 480, in Norcia, Umbria (modern day Italy) and is famed for his monastic rule, still followed by many monks and nuns.

The rule can be summarised as; 'ora et labora' (prayer and work). Anyone following the rule must seek to balance these two complimentary concepts. The challenge is to at once be in frequent dialogue with the Lord in prayer and also apply oneself to the happenings of life, and the rule provides a framework for this. I remember hearing one monk say; "Benedict's rule has lasted so long because it is so human". This is certainly true. The rule has truly stood the test of time, precisely because it works, because it is balanced.

So for a follower of Benedict, the day should be pierced with moments of prayer. The Lord is the priority. Indeed, Benedict said; "prefer absolutely nothing to the love of Christ". The prayer of a monk or nun consists of the Divine Office (Liturgy of the Hours), of which Benedict remarked, highlighting its primacy; "nothing whatever in the monastery is to be preferred to it". Typically, a monk or nun will be in church around seven times a day.

Flowing from the 'ora' comes the 'labora'. This could involve; craftwork, teaching, parish work, writing, studying, music and anything related to general upkeep of the monastery. In England, the major 'labora' of the Benedictines until recently was the running of parishes and schools. This is changing. Life can be challenging. Balancing prayer and work might help us to stand up to the challenge of life. So let us follow Benedict's example and seek balance in our lives, through prayer and work.

Fr. Peter

St. Michael's Church - Vandalism

Dear Parishioners

It seems that once more St. Michael's Church and Presbytery is under attack with acts of mindless vandalism and destruction.

Last week part of wall leading into the presbytery has been pulled down which has broken the electric gates and the statue of St. Bernadette in the grotto in front of the church has been smashed. They came back to try and steal the gates.

This has been reported to the police.

PLEASE, if you see any behaviour or persons that appear to be up to no good, please, DO NOT approach them but at a safe distance call 999 and report the incident to them.

This behaviour is scary and mindless.

Incident Reference - IML – 2120330 Crime Number – 25000526629

Fr. Mark

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.

All are welcome to attend, spread the word about this wonderful event!

Our Lady of Lourdes – pray for us! St. Bernadette – pray for us!

Mrs. Pam McGuffie - Celebrating her career as a Teacher/Headteacher

On the retirement of Mrs. McGuffie, Headteacher of Our Lady's School, the governors would like to invite you all to a special Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate her teaching career and especially her role as Headteacher in our school for over 10 years.

There will be a Holy Mass on **Friday 18th July at 2pm** in St Michael's Church. All are welcome to come and celebrate with Mrs. McGuffie and the children, staff, parents, and governors of Our Lady's School.

Thank You

We want to express our heartfelt thanks for your generous support in helping fund our pilgrimage to Lourdes. Your kindness has made it possible for us to take part in this beautiful journey, a time to deepen our spiritual life, give back through service, and pray for the peace and unity of the Church. As we travel, we will be praying for all those who are sick and those who care for them, praising God for His grace and mercy. This pilgrimage is a chance to witness His love in action and to carry the intentions of our parish community with us.

Thank you once again for your generosity, prayers, and encouragement. Please pray for us, as we keep you all in our prayers. With gratitude and blessings.

Chriselda and Francis Fernandes

LGBTQ+ Mass

On **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.

Office Hours

Please note the Parish Office will close at 1.30pm on Friday 11th July 2025.

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 the **ONLY** 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**.

Social Group

Sorry for the short notice but could the Social Group please meet on **Tuesday 8th July** after the 12noon Mass at St. John Fisher Presbytery to plan for the coming months. Thank you!

Gus Van Cauwelaert

It is with great sadness we share the news that our beloved former headteacher of SS. Peter and Paul Catholic High School (2003-2012) Gus Van Cauwelaert passed away recently following a short illness. Gus will be remembered as a charismatic and inspirational Headteacher who had a lasting impact on many staff, students and families he served, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this time. We offer them our sincere condolences.

Gift of Life for Zambia : Trip to Keswick, Wednesday, 9th July

Our next trip takes us to the Lake District. Keswick is a bustling town with lots of interesting shops and cafes. There is an excellent Visitor Centre providing information about Keswick. The coach leaves St. Basils at 9.30.am and returns at approx. 6.30-7pm. Cost £25. If you could please put your money in an envelope marked with your name and phone number and pass it to Monica (0151 424 8194) or Angela (0151 424 8668). All profits to Gift of Life for Zambia.

Angela

Archbishop John Sherrington – The Pallium

On the Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul, Archbishop John received the Pallium from Pope Leo XIV at St. Peter's in the Vatican. The pallium is made of pure white wool and is worn across Archbishop John's shoulders, and it evokes the carrying of the sick, the lost and the wounded sheep. In receiving and wearing it, Archbishop John visibly embraces his role as the shepherd who leads not from above, but from among his flock. The Pallium is a visible theology, a wearable Gospel. We hold Archbishop John in our daily prayers.

Parish Liturgy

Sunday	6th July	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Steve Cawley
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Gerald Quinn
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Micheal & Winifred Butler
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Jennie Baker
Monday	7th July	Ferial	
10.30	Requiem Mass	St Basil	Marie Thompson
Tuesday	8th July	Ferial	
11.30	Exposition & Rosary		
12noon	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	William (Les) Dean
Wednesday	9th July	Ferial	
10.00	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Gerald Martin
10.00	Funeral Service	St Basil	Peter James McGrath
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Year 6 Leavers Mass
Thursday	10th July	Ferial	
09.30	Requiem Mass	St Michael	Gladys Hunt
Friday	11th July	Feast of Benedict	
09.30	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	St John Fisher	
Saturday	12th July	Ferial	
16.30	Holy Mass	St Basil	Marie & Thomas Boden
18.00	Holy Mass	St John Fisher	Parishioners
Sunday	13th July	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
09.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Benny Lynch
10.15	Holy Mass	St Michael	Marek Skutnik
11.30	Holy Mass	St Bede	Mr & Mrs Smith
16.00	Holy Mass	St Bede	Ethel Parr

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp burns for 7 days for your intentions.

St Bede:	Special Intention
St Basil:	Joan Jacobsen
St John Fisher:	Joan & William Davies
St Michael:	Pat Thompson

Rest in Peace

Annette Mary Vaughan,
Paul John Willcox & James Blong

May the Angels lead them into Paradise!