JESUITS IN BRITAIN

Newsletter

30th November 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston

Rev Bill Adams 1928 – 2025

It is with great sadness, but with great joy for Bill, that we announce his death on Monday 17 November. Bill died quite suddenly at Bushell House, where he had lived since December 2024, and with his family around him, very peacefully and with no pain.

Bill served at St Wilfrid's from 1963 until approximately 5 years ago, first as Master of Ceremonies leading the altar staff, then for 40 years as a Deacon. He enjoyed his ministry immensely and made hundreds of friends through his work at St Wilfrid's and through his ministry in Preston Prison, Mount Street Nursing Home and St Vincent de Paul Society (of which he was a member for 70 years)!

He was also instrumental in the vision of building a children's hospice in this area and for many years fundraised for the creation of Derian House. He was an ambassador for them for many years, giving talks about their work for children with life limiting conditions.

He visited Lourdes about 50 times, ran many pilgrimages there over the years, and was a great advocate for all who were sick or in any kind of need.

He was a man of deep faith, enjoyed his vocation as a Deacon and saw this important role in the Church as a living and vital contribution to the lives of God's people. For many years he organised a monthly evening of prayer for all the Preston Deacons.

He lived a long and full life and was more than ready to enter his final journey to the God he felt privileged to serve. He was beautifully supported by the staff at Bushell House, who cared for him in the most wonderful surroundings and where he was extremely comfortable. May he now rest in peace and rise in glory. We can be sure he will continue to pray for us! Theresa Swan

Eternal rest grant unto Bill, O Lord

Requiem
Monday 8th December 12.15pm
at St Wilfrid's

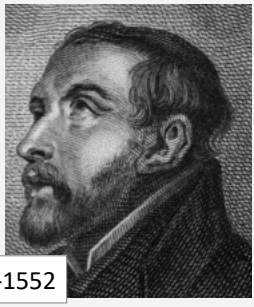
Edmund Campion
1540-1581

Jesuit Feasts

Monday 1 December is the **Feast of Sts Edmund Campion, Robert Southwell & their Jesuit Companions.** They are English martyrs of the Society of Jesus who were executed for their Catholic faith during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

Robert Southwell c.1561 - 1595

Wednesday 3 December is the **Feast of St Francis Xavier** who was a Spanish-Navarrese Catholic missionary and co-founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He is considered one of the greatest missionaries since St. Paul and played a crucial role in spreading Christianity to many parts of Asia, including India and Japan, and died en route to China in 1552.



Francis Xavier 1506-1552

Rev Bill Adams 1928 – 2025

Would you like to write a short tribute to Deacon Bill? Please send around 50 words to stwilfridspa@gmail.com for display in the Church.
To discuss ring Parish Administrator 01772 554396

Sacramental Preparation for Adults

Are you interested in understanding the Catholic faith more fully, being received into the Church, or receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation? If so, you are invited to join the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme which will begin in early January. Adults are usually received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, so over the next few weeks, we would like to meet with individuals to discuss your journey and determine everyone's availability so we can form a group before Christmas.

Please contact Joe White 07481188102 joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk or speak to Fr. Chris.

Parish Pastoral Council

Ernest Ezeani, Andrew Dawson, Jen Murphy, Margaret Nelson, Lee Unsworth, Maria Hall, Ruth White, Fr Chris Pedley SJ & Fr Hugh Duffy SJ. The Council meets approximately once a month.

Online Donations to St Wilfrid's can be made via the PARISH WEBSITE www.stwilfridspreston.org.uk Click on the DONATE button & follow the instructions. It's very easy!

The Pope's Prayer Intention for December

For Christians in areas of conflict: Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Students and Young Adults

Joe White, University Catholic Chaplain

joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk Tel. 07481 188102

BeverlyLloydroberts Free Images

Preparing for Christingle at 10.15 Mass

During Little Church on Sunday 7th December the children will make Christingles and then process with the candle lit as part of the Offertory Procession, after which the children will sing and sign for the congregation the tune they have prepared. Monica

Gift & Card Shop OPEN : After 10.15 Sunday Mass

Mon & Fri 11.30am to 1pm

Christmas stock available. Cash/cards taken

UNVEILED

12th December 7.30-9pm in St Wilfrid's Church

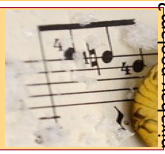
Blessing of the Bambinelli

Nick Stafford from Pixabay

It is a tradition on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) for children and adults to bring their baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peters Square where they are blessed by the Pope. Here at St Wilfrid's we will be celebrating 'Bambinelli Sunday' ourselves. We encourage you to bring your baby Jesus to our 10.15 Mass on 14th December and he will be blessed! After Mass, in the Narthex, there will be a wrapping table, where you can wrap your baby Jesus ready to place in your crib at home. You will receive a prayer for when you unwrap him on Christmas morning.

Carol Service

14 December 6.30pm in Church All welcome!



pixabay.neelam279

I Walked 60 Miles in November for Prostate Cancer Research

justgiving.com/search ref PaulM1759844505059

Fr Paul Fletcher SJ says, "thank you!" over £1200

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGS UNATTENDED IN CHURCH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. CHRIS PEDLEY SJ 01772 555244 cpedleysj@jesuit.org.uk
Parish Administrator: 01772 554396 stwilfridspa@gmail.com
Parish Safeguarding Rep: Barbara MacLaren 07986940883 barbara@hornworks.co.uk
Superior of the Jesuit Community: Fr. Hugh Duffy SJ 01772 554387
Newsletter Items to stwilfridspa@gmail.com

CHURCH OPEN 8AM-6PM

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE stwilfridspreston.org.uk

Sunday 30 November — FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 2:1-5 (Ps 122) Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

Mass 7am

Mass 10.15am with Choir. **LITTLE CHURCH DURING MASS**
Parish Centre 11.15-12.30 Tea/coffee Gift & Card Shop Open

Mass 4.30pm with Music Group After Mass in the Parish Centre: **Student Group Meeting**

Mon 1 Dec — *STS CAMPION, SOUTHWELL ET AL.*
Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15
11.30am-12noon Exposition
11.30-1pm Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee

1 Corinthians 4:9-13 (Ps 33) Luke 9:23-26

Tue 2 Dec — *FERIA*
Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15
6-7.30pm Metanoia Hot Meal Drop In

Isaiah 11:1-10 (Ps 72) Luke 10:21-24

Wed 3 Dec — *ST FRANCIS XAVIER*
Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15
5.15-5.45 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
6.30pm Metanoia Clothes Drop In (Narthex)

Isaiah 25:6-10a (Ps 23) Matthew 15:29-37

Thu 4 Dec — *FERIA*
Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15
11am Life Ascending (Coffee 10.30am)

Isaiah 26:1-6 (Ps 118) Matthew 7:21,24-27

Fri 5 Dec — *FERIA*
Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15
After 12.15 Mass Lectio Divina Followed by…
11.30-1pm Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee
..**Soup Lunch**

Isaiah 29:17-24 (Ps 27) Matthew 9:27-31

Sat 6 Dec — *FERIA*
Confessions 11-12.10
Mass 12.15
Confessions 5-5.30
VIGIL MASS 5.35pm

Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26 (Ps 147) Matthew 9:35-10:1,6-8

WE PRAY FOR

Those who died recently: Deacon Bill Adams RIP Requiem 8 Dec 12.15pm
Anniversaries: Paul Clitheroe, John Calligan, Stacey Cummings.
Those who are sick: Brendan Rawsthorn, Norman Gaskell, Doreen Flynn, Agnes Partington, Janet Hadfield.