

Fr Gildea's family and friends would like to thank everyone who has helped to prepare this liturgy and to all those who have attended or taken part in the celebration.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of Fr Gildea, his two favourite charities were Mary's Meals and Aid to the Church in Need. You can make an offering as you leave church or donate online at this address: <https://frgildea.muchloved.com>



#### Acknowledgements

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Scripture Readings from *The Jerusalem Bible* © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.

## CHURCH OF ST PETER & ST MICHAEL, WOOLSTON



Fr John Alfred Gildea  
1937 - 2022

### Vigil Mass for Fr John Gildea

Wednesday 2 November 2022 at 7.30 pm

Celebrant: Bishop Tom Williams  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool*



## FR JOHN GILDEA

John Alfred Gildea, the son of John and Janet Gildea, was born in Liverpool on 25th November 1937, and he was baptised a few days later at St Hugh of Lincoln, Wavertree. By the time he was of school age the family had moved from Liverpool, so he received his early education at St Luke's School, Whiston, before entering St Joseph's College, Upholland, to begin his seminary formation. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Heenan in the college chapel at Upholland on 8th June 1963.

Following ordination, he served as assistant priest in several parishes across the archdiocese: St Agnes, Huyton (August 1963); St Matthew, Liverpool (August 1967); St Thomas of Canterbury, Waterloo (August 1972); Holy Angels, Kirkby (September 1974) and St Mark, Halewood (February 1978). His pastoral ministry in these years, and indeed throughout his priestly life, was marked by a wonderful rapport with young people. Many of these skills were honed through his work as a chaplain to young people on the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes year by year. Whichever parish he served in, he was always an enthusiastic and committed supporter of young people travelling to Lourdes.

In March 1982 he moved to St Charles, Aigburth, Liverpool, to assist Fr Thomas Mangan with a view to succeeding him as parish priest, which he did later that year. Over the next several years he built on the foundations laid by his predecessors, allowing the parish to flourish and grow.

After sixteen fruitful years in Aigburth, he moved to St Peter and St Michael, Woolston, in September 1998. Here the people benefited from his tireless commitment to their pastoral care right up until the end of his life. In recent years, despite suffering a debilitating stroke, he showed great determination and tenacity in carrying on in active ministry and fulfilling his duties as parish priest.

He died suddenly, after a very brief illness, in the evening of Monday 17th October 2022. He was 84 years old and in the 60th year of his priesthood.

May he rest in peace.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

*At the door of the church, Bishop Tom greets everyone and sprinkles Fr Gildea's coffin with holy water.*

*Fr Gildea's coffin is then carried into church and Christian symbols are placed on it:*

- A Crucifix – the symbol of God's love for us all.
- The Chalice and Paten used by Fr Gildea at Mass.
- Fr Gildea's Stole – a sign of his priestly ministry.
- Fr Gildea's Breviary which contains the Scriptures and prayers for each day of the year.
- Flowers representing the circle of life.

*The Canons of the Cathedral Chapter then lead Evening Prayer for All Souls' Day.*

### **Gathering Song**

- 1 **Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.  
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.**
- 2 **Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**
- 3 **Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

*David J Evans © 1986 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd).  
CCL Licence No 241734.*

### **Greeting & Introduction**

### **Penitential Act**

### **Collect**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **First Reading**

*(Hebrews 5: 1-6)*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for us in our relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm**

*(based on Micah 6 & John 14)*

**This is what the Lord asks of you, only this:  
that you act justly, that you love tenderly,  
that you walk humbly, with your God.**

- 1 'My children, I am with you such a little while,  
and where I go now you cannot come;  
a new commandment I give to you:  
as I have loved you, so love each other.'
- 2 'So not let your hearts be troubled;  
trust in God now, and trust in me.  
I go to prepare a place for you,  
and I shall come again to take you home.'
- 3 'Peace is the gift I leave with you,  
a peace the world can never give.  
If you keep my word, my Father will love you,  
and we will come to you to make our home.'

© 1974 Mary McGann & Margo Morris, RSCJ.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

### **Gospel**

*(Matthew 5: 1-12)*

The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'Blest are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blest are the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Blest are those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Blest are those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.

Blest are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Blest are the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Blest are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God.

Blest are those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blest are you when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Homily**

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### **Preparation of the Gifts**

- 1 Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,  
thanks to your goodness this bread we offer:  
fruit of the earth, work of our hands,  
it will become the bread of life.

**Blessed be God! Blessed be God!  
Blessed be God forever! Amen! (x2)**



- 2 Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,  
thanks to your goodness this wine we offer:  
fruit of the earth, work of our hands,  
it will become the cup of life.

*Aniceto Nazareth © 1984 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Reprinted with  
permission. All rights reserved. One License #A-632722.*

### Prayer over the Offerings

#### Eucharistic Prayer

*Please join in singing the acclamations:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*The Mystery of Faith*

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again, until you come again.**

#### Communion

*Music: Panis Angelicus – St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)*

#### Prayer after Communion

### CONCLUDING RITE

#### Blessing & Dismissal

May the love of God, who shared his love,  
strengthen us in love for each other.

**R. Amen.**

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

**R. Amen.**

#### Final Song (*Fr Gildea's favourite hymn*)

- 1 **O Lord, all the world belongs to you,  
and you are always making all things new.  
What is wrong, you forgive,  
and the new life you give  
is what's turning the world upside down.**
- 2 **The world's only loving to its friends,  
but you have brought us love that never ends;  
loving enemies too,  
and this loving with you  
is what's turning the world upside down.**
- 3 **The world lives divided and apart.  
You draw us all together and we start,  
in your body to see  
that in fellowship we  
can be turning the world upside down.**
- 4 **The world wants the wealth to live in state,  
but you show us a new way to be great:  
like a servant you came,  
and if we do the same,  
we'll be turning the world upside down.**
- 5 **O Lord, all the world belongs to you,  
and you are always making all things new.  
Send your Spirit on all  
in your Church, whom you call  
to be turning the world upside down.**

*Patrick Appleford © 1965 Josef Weinberger Ltd.  
CCL Licence No 241734.*

---

### A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

Lord, help us to fulfil our mission of bringing your joy and love to others  
through our prayers, our listening, our words, and our deeds.  
May we be a parish that is welcoming and eager to share our faith.  
Show us new ways to reach out and encourage those searching  
for the peace only you can give.

Amen.