

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

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CHURCH OF ST OSWALD, KING & MARTYR WARRINGTON



Fr John Alfred Gildea
1937 - 2022

Funeral Mass for Fr John Gildea

Thursday 3 November 2022 at 2.00 pm

Celebrant: Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop 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, the Archbishop greets everyone and sprinkles Fr Gildea's coffin with holy water.

Entrance Procession

- 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.

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Greeting & Introduction

Placing of Christian Symbols

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.

Collect

O God, listen favourably to our prayers
offered on behalf of your servant and priest,
and grant that John,
who committed himself zealously to the service of your name,
may rejoice for ever in the company of your saints.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

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.'

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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.

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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

During communion, children from St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Woolston will sing, 'Thank you for loving me'.

Prayer after Communion

FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell

May the choirs of angels come to greet you.
May they speed you to paradise.
May the Lord enfold you in his mercy.
May you find eternal life.

Prayer of Commendation

Final Song

- 1 How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him
who brings good news, good news,
announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness:
our God reigns, our God reigns.

**Our God reigns, our God reigns,
Our God reigns, our God reigns.**

- 2 You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,
shout for your King, your King.
See eye to eye, the Lord restoring Sion:
our God reigns, our God reigns.
- 3 Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy!
We are redeemed, redeemed,
the Lord has saved and comforted his people:
our God reigns, our God reigns.
- 4 Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God.
Jesus is Lord, is Lord!
Before the nations he has bared his holy arm:
our God reigns, our God reigns.

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*The committal will take place at Walton Lea Crematorium,
Chester Road, Higher Walton, Warrington WA4 6TB at 4.00 pm.*

*You are very welcome to join Fr Gildea's family for refreshments
in St Oswald's Parish Centre from 4.45 pm.*

*For those not going to the committal,
the Parish Centre will be open from 3.30 pm.*

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