

The Parish of Blessed James Bell

Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's, Warrington



Archdiocese of Liverpool

Newsletter

Sunday 23 December 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)



Our Benedictine Heritage

Parish Priest: Fr Dave Heywood

Deacons: Revv Michael Birchall, David Boyle, Tony Kerrigan & Michael Oxley

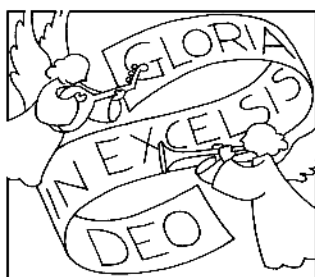
Telephone: 01925 630127

Office: blessedjamesbell@rcaolp.co.uk

Personal: frdave@rcaolp.co.uk

St Benedict's Church is open Monday - Friday 9.00 am - 4.30 pm for Private Prayer (Exc. Bank Holidays)

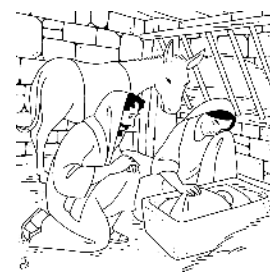
St Benedict's & St Oswald's Masses & Services 23 - 30 December 2018		
	ST BENEDICT'S Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE	ST OSWALD'S Padgate Lane, Warrington WA1 3LB
Sunday 23 December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)</i> Day of Prayer for Expectant Parents	10.30 am Mass <i>Arthur Brindle</i>	(Sat) 6.00 pm Vigil Mass <i>The Parishioners</i> 8.30 am Mass <i>Alan Oxley</i> 3.30 pm Polish Mass
Monday 24 December <i>Vigil of the Nativity</i> Christmas Eve	4.00 pm Slovak Christmas Mass 11.30 pm Christmas Midnight Mass <i>The Parishioners</i>	6.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass <i>The People of Palestine</i> 8.00 pm Polish Christmas Mass
Tuesday 25 December <i>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</i> Christmas Day	10.30 am Christmas Day Mass <i>The People of Syria</i>	8.30 am Christmas Dawn Mass <i>Maureen Deignan</i> 2.00 pm Polish Christmas Mass
Wednesday 26 December <i>Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr</i>		2.00 pm Polish Mass
Thursday 27 December <i>Feast of St John, Apostle & Evangelist</i>		10.00 am Mass <i>Lidia Bell</i> <i>(No Novena Today)</i>
Friday 28 December <i>Feast of the Holy Innocents</i>	12.15 pm Mass <i>Timothy & Annie Dewane</i> <i>(No Meditation Today)</i>	
Saturday 29 December <i>Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury</i>		<i>No Exposition Today</i> 6.00 pm Vigil Mass <i>Nadine Davies</i>
Sunday 30 December <i>Feast of the Holy Family (C)</i>	10.30 am Mass <i>Jane Brindle</i>	8.30 am Mass <i>The Parishioners</i> 3.30 pm Polish Mass



May the joy and peace of Christ be with you this
Christmas and throughout the New Year

Fr Dave, Fr Austin

Deacons Mike B, David, Tony & Michael O



St Mary's Shrine, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NS

Telephone: 01925 635664 Website: www.fssp.co.uk/warrington

Served by the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter

Rector: Fr de Malleray FSSP malleray@fssp.org Assistant: Fr Konrad Loewenstein FSSP padrek@libero.it

Assistant: Fr Ian Verrier FSSP iverrier@fssp.org

LATIN MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM (with translations)

Holy Mass <i>Sunday</i> 11.00 am & 6.00 pm <i>Monday to Saturday</i> 12.10 pm	Confessions <i>Everyday</i> 30 minutes before Mass <i>Saturday</i> 10.00 – 11.45 am	Adoration & Benediction <i>Saturday</i> 10.00 – 12.00 noon	Holy Rosary <i>Sunday</i> 5.30 pm <i>Monday to Saturday</i> 11.30 am
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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



Christmas Eve (Monday 24 December)

4.00 pm Slovak Christmas Mass at St Benedict's

6.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Oswald's

8.00 pm Polish Christmas Mass at St Oswald's

11.30 pm Midnight Mass at St Benedict's

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25 December)

8.30 am Christmas Dawn Mass at St Oswald's

10.30 am Christmas Day Mass at St Benedict's

2.00 pm Polish Christmas Mass at St Oswald's

Boxing Day (Wednesday 26 December)

2.00 pm Polish Mass at St Oswald's

Please note:

- 1) The Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at St Benedict's will begin at 11.30 pm not Midnight.
- 2) Children are invited to bring a home-made birthday card for Jesus to the 6.00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve at St Oswald's or the 10.30 am Mass on Christmas Day at St Benedict's.
- 3) Altar Servers, Readers, Collectors and Eucharistic Ministers are invited to sign the sheet at the back of church if they are available to help with the liturgies.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST MARY'S SHRINE

Confessions 30 minutes before every Mass.

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.00 am Low Mass of Christmas Morning
11.00 am Sung Mass of Christmas Day

CRIB OFFERINGS

Crib offerings traditionally go to support the work of Nungent (the social welfare agency of the Archdiocese).

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers are invited to renew their commitment at Mass next Saturday/Sunday, 29/30 December. New servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen. After the 10.30 am Mass at St Benedict's, all servers are invited to stay for lunch together.

ALTERNATIVE NEW YEAR IN CHURCH

New Year's Eve Mass

If you would like to welcome in the New Year in church, there will be a Vigil Mass at 11.15 pm on New Year's Eve at St Benedict's, followed by the chimes of Big Ben (live), a New Year Blessing, and some cheese and wine.

New Year's Day Mass

The first day of the New Year is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. There will a New Year's Day Mass at 12.00 noon at St Oswald's. All welcome.

Christmas Reflection

And now God says to us what God has already said to the earth as a whole through his grace-filled birth: "I am there. I am with you. I am your life. I am your time. I am the gloom of your daily routine... I am your joy. Do not be afraid to be happy; ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living that is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who think they have no hope ... I am present in your needs.

I have suffered them and they are now transformed but not obliterated from my heart. This reality – incomprehensible wonder of my almighty love – I have sheltered safely and completely in the cold stable of your world. I am there. Even if you

do not see me now, I am there. It is Christmas. Light the candles. They have more right to exist than all the darkness.

Karl Rahner SJ in The Great Church Year (The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1993)



Archdiocesan Mission Statement

"Taking to heart the last words of the Lord Jesus, we will go into the world to proclaim the Good News to the whole of creation."

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

This Christmas many people are living with uncertainty, yet this is nothing new. For centuries people have lived with worry and insecurity, but for over two thousand years we have lived with the truth which we celebrate each Christmas Day: the truth that God became man for us, for each and every one of us. The Christ child born in Bethlehem is our anchor, and our saviour. His coming brings us confidence so we can face the future with hope.

We celebrate Christmas at the darkest time of the year, the days are short and the nights long, but our celebrations bring light to our darkness and hope to our lives. In these days we see incredible generosity as people reach out to others, especially to those in need. In a time of political instability, financial worries, foodbanks and poverty so many are daily supporting those who most need our help. In recent weeks donations to local foodbanks have increased as people give help to those most in need at this time of year. Those who have plenty supporting those with so little.

Jesus was born in poverty, in a stable, in the dark, open to the cold. His first visitors were not friends and family or people that Mary and Joseph knew, they were strangers - shepherds from the surrounding hillside summoned by



angels and wise men from the east who followed a star bringing gifts for the new born king. Stars don't just lead us but remind us of the creative power of God and his presence in our lives. God is with us in the star that shines in our hearts. God became one of us because we matter.

Jesus, the true Light, has come in our lives to give us real hope because each one of us matters, this is not just wishful thinking. Jesus, the Light of the world shows us the way out of the despair of poverty, and of instability and of the gloom of the seasons to a brighter future ahead. We believe that the child born in Bethlehem will guide us and support us and that makes our festivities worthwhile.

We buy presents for our families and friends; we decorate our homes, offices and churches; and we travel long distances so that we can be with the people whom we love most, reminding us of God's love for us.

Let us then pray for peace in our world and in our lives echoing the song of the angels: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to people of goodwill.'

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

FAITH FOR LIFE

Are you looking to deepen the links between your faith and your life? Please consider the 'Faith For Life' course that is being offered on four weekends in Warrington in 2019 (19-20 January, 16-17 February, 6-7 April, 11-12 May). The course runs from 9.30 am - 5.00 pm on Saturday and 1.00 - 4.45 pm on Sunday. Past participants have said: 'I'm going home with treasures', 'There is an enthusiasm around this course that is answering a hunger in the people of God at this time', 'Does what it says on the tin.' To book a place, speak to Fr Dave or phone the parish office at St Stephen's on (01925) 632849.

A CHRISTMAS TABLE PRAYER

Loving God, on this Christmas Day, we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share, and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and our friends, all who are lonely, sick or away from home. We pray that our departed loved ones may now sit at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

The story of the birth of Jesus resonates with the story of humanity at its darkest hour. Matthew Guite's poem 'Refugee' puts it well:



We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,
But he is with a million displaced people
On the long road of weariness and want.

For even as we sing our final carol
His family is up and on that road,
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.

Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
And death squads spread their curse across the world.

But every Herod dies, and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

SAFEGUARDING IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL!

Parish Safeguarding Reps:

Celia Baxter, Doreane Child,
Clare Fraser & Claire Lancaster

Telephone (01925) 630127

If you believe that a child or vulnerable adult has suffered or is in immediate risk of suffering significant harm, for example, physical or sexual assault or theft of their property, then you should contact the Police immediately.

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER



Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

- St Benedict's* Paul Vernon, Jean Molphy, Anne Hill, Susan Keating, Ann Brown, Bill Hampson, Peter Milner, James Malone, Vera Brindle, Pat Buist, Thomas Ireland, Matilde Valentine, Brenda Snelson, Syd Bradshaw, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Ged Wallace, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Barbara Edmondson
- St Mary's* Luciano Bartolo
- St Oswald's* Susan Disley, Mary Massey, Maureen Holt, Catherine Carne, Jo Roberts, Sam Johnson, Betty Mannion, Margaret Watts (nee McGinty), Mike McCarrick, Doreen Thurston, John Gorman
- Other Parishes* Margaret Fay, Catherine Donaldson, Laurence Finn, Fr John Gildea, Fr Malcolm Prince, Alan Brompton, Mgr Austin Hunt, Rebekah Stone

QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women."

Christmas 2015

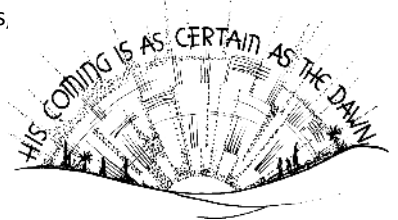
PEER TALK SUPPORT GROUP

Warrington's peer support group for anyone facing depression or a related mental health condition runs weekly at The Gateway, Sankey Street, every Monday evening at 7.00 pm. It's free and offers a safe space to offload, to be heard and to receive support to help work through difficult times. No need to book or be referred.

For more information visit: www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/support-groups

Christmas Reflection

You must bring him everything!
Your dreams, your successes, your rejoicing.
And if you have little to rejoice over, bring him that little.
And if your life seems only like a heap of fragments, bring him the fragments.
And if you have only empty hands, bring him your empty hands.
Shattered hopes are his material; in his hands all are made good.
Meister Eckhart



If you would like to add a parishioner to the prayer list, please check with them first and then email Fr Dave on frdave@rcaolp.co.uk or give him a note of their name and phone number. Many thanks.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sunday – 4th Sunday of Advent (C)
Weekdays – Octave of the Nativity
Divine Office – Psalter Week 1

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS
Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14; Col 3: 12-21
Lk 2: 22-40

ST BENEDICT'S - 200 CLUB WINNER
16 December:
(14) Hannah Michael

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please ensure the Parish Office receives items for the Newsletter by Wednesday at the latest. Tel: 630127

PARISH FINANCE

Total Offertory Collection for 16 December 2018

St Benedict's	£419.24 (£169.00 GA)
St Oswald's	£501.37 (£230.75 GA)
Standing Orders	£62.65 (£55.73 GA)
PARISH TOTAL:	£983.26 (£455.48 GA)

OTHER INCOME

Advent Caritas	£1,912.85
Poor Box	£47.25
Hymn Book Fundraisers	£145.30

SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEK

Room at the Inn (Y-Project)
PARISH TOTAL: £427.00

Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity

ST OSWALD'S PARISH CENTRE
Padgate Lane, Warrington, WA1 3LB

The Week Ahead

Sunday	9.00 pm	Quiz – Concert Room
Monday	<i>The Bar is open as usual</i>	No Sequence Dancing No Line Dancing
Wednesday		No Bingo

For Bookings call 07932 404364 before 7 pm, or 812266

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH CENTRE
Rhodes Street, Warrington, WA2 7QE

The Week Ahead

Sunday	8.30 pm	Cabaret
Monday		No Bingo or Rainbows
Wednesday		No Drama
Thursday		No Line Dancing

For Bookings call 07377 341982 before 7 pm, or 633920