

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**2nd Sunday of Easter (A)
19 April 2020**

My dear sisters and brothers,

As I write, it has just been announced that the lockdown is to be extended for at least another three weeks. I think this is very wise. Ministering to those suffering with Covid-19 has left me feeling that this virus is incredibly infectious and unpredictable. We really need to be very careful.

I know the lockdown is harder for some than others. If you are really struggling just now, I hope you are able to access the appropriate support. However, if you need help and don't know what to do, please get in touch with me by phone or email (details below) and I will do all I can to organise support for you.

This week, I exchanged greetings with the parishes we are twinned with in the Holy Land: Fr Fares Syriani and the parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary, Kerak, and Fr Athos Righi and the parishioners of St James the Less, Ma'in. They are in lockdown too! Do please keep them in your prayers.

Finally, in this Sunday's Gospel, the risen Lord appears to the disciples who are in their own self-imposed lockdown in Jerusalem. His first words to them are: 'Peace be with you'. Jesus greets you and I every day in the same way. Let his greeting fill you with his peace.

With my prayers,
Fr Dave

DONATIONS

Many, many thanks to those who have made donations to help those who are struggling during the pandemic. This week: £400 (Anon) and £60 (Anon).

Useful Information

1) **Fr Dave** is available by phone (01925 630127) or by email frdave@rcaolp.co.uk

2) Parish Website

The Parish Website is updated each day with news, as we get it, as well as prayers and reflections. If you know of any parishioners who don't have internet access and would like to receive items that are posted during the lockdown, please forward their name and address to Fr Dave and he will add them to the mailing list.

3) Mass Online

While our churches are closed, you may like to join in the celebration of Mass online.

→ Mass from the Cathedral is livestreamed on Sundays at 9.00 am on Facebook, with a recording available at 11.00 am on YouTube (go to YouTube and enter 'The Metropolitan Cathedral Liverpool' in search). The Facebook address is:

www.facebook.com/liverpoolmetrocathedral

→ Fr John McLaughlin is uploading Mass from St Stephen's: www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk

There are plenty of Masses livestreamed throughout the day at the following websites:

www.churchservices.tv and <https://www.mcnmedia.tv>

4) Praying at Home

You may prefer to pray in your own way at home or gather those who share your home and have a little time of prayer together. There are resources you can use on the parish website.

5) Buddy System

If you are lonely and feeling isolated, please call Fr Dave (630127) and he will put you in touch with a fellow parishioner you can talk to on the phone.

6) Want to Volunteer?

Warrington Council have set up a great support scheme for those who don't have family to support them. If you're interested in volunteering, go to:

www.warrington.gov.uk/coronavirus-community-support

7) Warrington Hospital

Fr John Schofield and I are covering the hospital for the time being. Due to the pandemic, we are only attending in person those who are critically ill or in danger of death. In these situations, the hospital will page us, or relatives can ask the hospital to page us. For those patients who are not in danger of death, we can offer to support them and pray with them over the

phone. This avoids the risk of spreading infection between the wards. *Fr Dave*

8) "Isolated but not alone"

'The Tablet' has a whole host of resources that are very helpful: www.thetablet.co.uk (scroll down the page).

FEAST OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

The Feast of our Parish Patron, Blessed James Bell, is tomorrow (Monday), 20 April. When patronal feasts fall during Advent, Lent or Eastertide, they are transferred to the nearest Sunday in Ordinary Time or to the Sunday before the Solemnity of All Saints (1 November). So, this year, we will celebrate the Feast of Blessed James Bell on Sunday 25 October, which is the day before the anniversary of the inauguration of our new parish in 2018.

STEP INTO THE GAP

CAFOD offers a gap year programme for those aged 18-30 based in the UK which includes a three week visit to meet partners and communities that CAFOD work with. Find out more information including how to apply at www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear

NEW 24/7 MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

People of all ages, including children and young people, living in Warrington who are experiencing a mental health crisis can now access support through a new, 24/7, mental health crisis line: **01925 275309**.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

For non-urgent help and general wellbeing advice, North West Boroughs Healthcare's website contains information and links to resources to support people with anxiety, low-mood, and worries: www.nwbh.nhs.uk/coronavirus Another helpful site: www.happyoksad.org.uk There are also resources on the parish website including support for those suffering domestic abuse and a guide to help children through the current pandemic.

POPE FRANCIS

→ God's faithfulness is a patient fidelity to His people. God listens, guides, explains slowly, and kindles the heart as He did with the two disciples who had travelled far from Jerusalem: He made their hearts burn so they would return home (15 April).

→ Let us pray together for the elderly, especially those who are isolated or in rest homes and are afraid of dying alone. They are our roots. They gave us the faith, tradition, and a sense of belonging. Let us pray that the Lord might be near to them (14 April).

→ In the Gospel we hear that the women proclaimed Jesus' Resurrection to the disciples. Today I would like to remember the efforts that so many women make to take care of others, even during this crisis (13 April).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today	2nd Sunday of Easter (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 2: 42-47; 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 19-31
Weekdays	2nd Week of Easter
Monday	Feast of Blessed James Bell (transferred to Sunday 25 October)
Thursday	Solemnity of St George, Patron of England
Saturday	Feast of St Mark
Next Sunday	3rd Sunday of Easter (A)

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week: The Parishioners, 60th Wedding Anniversary, Marie Kane, Dom Raphael Aspinwall, Joe Lawlor, Maureen Holt and Joan Howl.

FUNERALS

Funerals this week: John Cassidy (Mon), Marie Anne Kane (Tue), Joseph Comer (Wed) and Joe Lawlor (Thu). Please keep their families and friends in your prayers. If you are unable to attend because of the pandemic, there are resources on the parish website that you could use for a time of prayer at home.

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's

Paul Vernon, Brenda Snelson, Jean Molphy, Anne Hill, Vera Brindle, Susan Keating, Ann Brown, Peter Milner, Thomas Ireland, Matilde Valentine, Syd Bradshaw, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Barbara Edmondson, Mary Hinchliffe, Ernie Roocroft, Josie Hackwell, Paul Whitlow.

St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo.

St Oswald's

Susan Disley, Mary Massey, Catherine Carne, Jo Roberts, Sam Johnson, Margaret Watts (nee McGinty), Mike McCarrick, Betty Fiddler, Veronica Edwards, Miriam Jones.

Other Parishes

Catherine Donaldson, Alan Brompton, Jo Busby, Veronica Baker, John Hughes (Vietnam), Bishop Vincent Malone, Fr Bill Murphy, Clare Holloway.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Marie Anne Kane, Joseph Lawlor, John Cassidy, Paul Walker and Joe Comer.

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