

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

5th Sunday of Easter (A)

10 May 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

Last Wednesday, Brenda Snelson celebrated her 98th birthday! On my way back from a funeral, I called in to her care home. The sun was shining and Brenda was sat outside surrounded by balloons and a massive banner saying, 'Happy 98th Birthday'. Although I couldn't speak to Brenda, I was able to deliver a card and a small gift from us all, and wave to her across the courtyard. Many, many congratulations, Brenda!

On a more sombre note, we've now had 20 deaths in the parish during the lockdown – over three times the average for this time of year! Two thirds have been due to the virus. Despite what we hear in the media, Warrington Hospital is still busy and the virus has begun to hit our local care homes. So please keep praying for all those wonderful carers in the NHS and Social Care as well as for all who are sick and their families, especially those who are unable to visit their loved ones at this time. Thank you.

There are some key workers that perhaps get overlooked in our gratitude just now. First, I'm thinking of our local funeral directors and all those who assist them. They are on the front line dealing with all who have died and their families who perhaps can't say farewell in the way that they would want. Secondly, I'm thinking of our local police, who not only have to try and help us to keep the lockdown for the good of all, but also have to deal with cases of domestic abuse and violent crime. Let's keep them in our prayers and remember to thank them too.

I know we are all missing being able to gather together – not only to celebrate the eucharist, but simply to meet with each other. I don't know when we will be able to open the churches even for private prayer. I expect any changes to the lockdown will need to be

gradual and we, as a Church, will need to be able to ensure the safety of all those who come to church.

As I said a couple of weeks ago, visiting those who are sick in hospital and care homes has taught me that this virus is incredibly infectious and unpredictable. We need to continue to take great care, and it alarms me to see so many people on the roads again and taking risks in meeting up with others. It's simply too soon.

Please do get in touch with me if you're struggling and don't know what to do. If I can't help you myself, I can certainly put you in touch with someone who can. This week, with the help of others, we've been able to support a number of families whose parents have been made redundant, get help for an individual suffering domestic abuse, support 'Room At The Inn' with donations of food and finance, and ensure those who don't fit neatly into categories eligible for support are not forgotten.

Finally, two very dear parishioners went home to our Lord this week: Veronica Edwards (*St Oswald's*) and Syd Bradshaw (*St Benedict's*). Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

*"May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you" (Ps 32).*

With my prayers,
Fr Dave

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 a copy of the newsletter and other 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) **Sunday Mass**

While our churches are closed, you may like to join in the celebration of Mass online. There are plenty of links on the Parish Website. 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.

4) **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.

5) 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*

6) "Isolated but not alone"

'The Tablet' has a whole host of resources that are very helpful under the title, "Isolated but not alone". Go to www.thetablet.co.uk and scroll down the page.

7) 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, there's more information on the Parish Website.

DONATIONS

Thank you so much to those who have been able to make donations to help individuals and families who are struggling during the pandemic. This week: £100 & £20. Paid into the Parish Account during April: £250 (Anon), £150 (CW-U), £500 (Catherine of Siena).

MASS FOR THE SICK, NHS WORKERS & THOSE WORKING IN SOCIAL CARE

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those affected by the pandemic, each Thursday at 7.00 pm, one of the Bishops will celebrate Mass which will be live-streamed. You can join in the Mass here: www.cbcew.org.uk

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**.

POPE FRANCIS

→ In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: Christ is risen and is living by our side (7 May).

→ Let us rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home during May! At the end of each Rosary, we can recite a prayer asking for Mary's intercession, that the Lord might free us from this pandemic and life might serenely resume its normal course (1 May).

→ We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church (1 May).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	5th Sunday of Easter (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 6: 1-7 1 Peter 2: 4-9 John 14: 1-12
Weekdays	5th Week of Easter
Wednesday	Feast of the Dedication of Liverpool Cathedral of Christ the King
Thursday	Feast of St Matthias, Apostle
Next Sunday	6th Sunday of Easter (A)

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week: The Parishioners, Seamus McGuinness & Family, Syd Bradshaw, Valerie Strogen, Ron Monks, Margaret & Mike Whitlow (40th Wedding Anniversary).

FUNERALS

Funerals this week: Liam James Walsh (Fri), Paul Stanton (Fri) and Peter Allen John McCullen (Fri). 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, 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, 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:

Liam James Walsh, Paul Stanton, Peter McCullen, Veronica Edwards, Syd Bradshaw and Joseph Gannon.

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