

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

7th Sunday of Easter (A)

24 May 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

It was with great sadness that we received the news last Monday that Bishop Malone had died at the Royal Liverpool Hospital after testing positive for COVID-19. He was 88. Bishop Vincent had been our auxiliary bishop from 1989 until his retirement in 2006, although he remained very active in the Archdiocese until last year.

Archbishop Malcom writes: "Bishop Vincent had retired from his role as auxiliary bishop when I arrived in Liverpool six years ago, but he was still a very active member of the Archbishop's Council and a Trustee of the Archdiocese. No report or set of accounts was safe from Bishop Vin's eye for detail. As a young priest he had trained as teacher of mathematics, and numbers and diagrams certainly contributed to his view of the world or at least of the Church, but it would be very wrong to portray him as a person who was unfeeling."

"His mild and polite manner found its fulfilment in his ministry as a priest and bishop which was characterised by unfailing kindness and respect to all those he met and served. Bishop Vincent told me that he enjoyed being an auxiliary bishop because it kept him close to people. He made a massive contribution to the life of the local church and city as Dean at the Metropolitan Cathedral, chaplain to Liverpool University and chair of numerous committees including the early ecumenical bodies which laid the foundations for the harmony we enjoy between churches and people of faith in these days."

Cardinal Nichols said: "As a fairly young priest I was sent to live for a few years at the Clergy House of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. Monsignor Vincent Malone was in charge. Above all I remember

his endless patience to get right every aspect of the work of the Cathedral; his unfailing courtesy with every person he met, even those who were occasionally very difficult; his kindness to those in need who came to the door. He had a gentle rebuke for those who acted precipitously and a readiness himself to make amends. He offered warm hospitality without ever being ostentatious and a quiet witty conversation. He was a lovely man to be with.

"We will miss him. We pray that he is received by our Heavenly Father with loving mercy and that he can look down upon us with an affectionate smile as he sees us still struggle to do our best. His service, his struggle is over. May he rest in peace and rise in glory."

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On Tuesday, we said farewell to two dear parishioners – Veronica Edwards (*St Oswald's*) and Syd Bradshaw (*St Benedict's*). It was so lovely to see parishioners gather outside both churches (observing social distancing) to say farewell and show support for their families. Thank you for that. Later in the year, when we're able to gather in church once again, we'll celebrate Memorial Masses for both Vera and Syd.

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) Struggling during the Lockdown?

If you are struggling during the lockdown – to put food on the table or to make ends meet, lonely, worried about your mental health or whatever – do please contact Fr Dave and he will do everything he can to source assistance for you.

4) 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 for both adults and children on Fr Dave's blog on the Parish Website.

5) Warrington Hospital & Care Homes

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 dying. 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 and pray with them over the phone. This avoids the risk of spreading infection between the wards. Fr John and I are also happy to visit local Care Homes if loved ones are critically ill or in danger of death. *Fr Dave*

6) Mass for the Sick, NHS Staff & Care Workers

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those affected by the pandemic, one of the Bishops is celebrating Mass each Thursday at 7.00 pm which is live-streamed at: www.cbcew.org.uk

PARISH CARITAS DONATIONS

Many, many thanks to those who have made donations to help those who are struggling during the pandemic. This week: £20 (in memory of Jo Busby), £80 (Anon), £50 (Anon), £5 (Anon).

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

There are four ways you can continue to support the parish financially during the lockdown:

- 1) You could put your weekly offering aside each week and then bring it to church once we're open again.
- 2) You could set up a standing order. You can download a form from the Parish Website.
- 3) You can now make one-off and regular donations to the Parish online at this address:
<https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/blessed-james-bell-warrington>
- 4) Text giving is now also available for the Parish for both one-off and regular donations. Details can be found on the Parish Website.

POPE FRANCIS

- ➔ If one follows Jesus, happy to be attracted by Him, others will take notice. They may even be astonished. The joy that radiates from those attracted by Christ and by his Spirit is what can make any missionary initiative fruitful (*21 May*).
- ➔ The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures (*20 May*).
- ➔ Our society has a sense of being orphaned that touches our sense of belonging and fraternity, because the Father is missing. Let's ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to rediscover the Father, who gives us a sense of meaning in life. May He make us one family (*17 May*).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	7th Sunday of Easter (A)
<i>Readings</i>	<i>World Communications Day</i>
	Acts 1: 12-14
	1 Peter 4: 13-16
	John 17: 1-11
Weekdays	7th Week of Easter
Monday	St Bede the Venerable
Tuesday	St Philip Neri
Wednesday	Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury
Next Sunday	Pentecost Sunday

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week: The Parishioners, Mark (very sick), Bert Hinchliffe, Maureen Holt, Bishop Vincent Malone and Baby Joseph Gormley-Hudson.

FUNERALS

Funerals this week: Baby Joseph John Ortega (Tue) and Joseph John Gannon (Wed). 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, Veronica Baker, John Hughes (Vietnam), Fr Bill Murphy, Clare Holloway.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Baby Joseph John Ortega, Joseph John Gannon, Jo Busby, Bishop Vincent Malone, Peter Lomax and Baby Joseph Gormley-Hudson.

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.