

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

2nd August 2020

### Entrance Procession

*Music: 'Glory to God' from Mass of Christ the Saviour  
by Dan Schutte*

### Greeting & Introduction

#### Penitential Act

*Let us pray together:*

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

#### Collect

Draw near to your servants, O Lord,  
and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness,  
that, for those who glory in you  
as their Creator and guide,  
you may restore what you have created  
and keep safe what you have restored.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

*(Romans 8: 35, 37-39)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ,  
even if we are troubled or worried, or being  
persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being  
threatened or even attacked. These are the trials  
through which we triumph, by the power of him who  
loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel,  
no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come,

not any power, or height or depth, nor any created  
thing, can ever come between us and the love of God  
made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 144

**The hand of the Lord feeds us;  
he answers all our needs.**

- 1 The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The Lord is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.
- 2 The eyes of all look hopefully to you,  
and you give them their food in due season;  
you open your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

### Gospel Acclamation

#### Gospel

*(Matthew 14: 13-21)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's  
death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where  
they could be by themselves. But the people heard of  
this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So  
as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he  
took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and  
said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped  
by; so send the people away, and they can go to the  
villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied,  
'There is no need for them to go: give them something  
to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with  
us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me'  
he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit  
down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and  
the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the  
blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his  
disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as  
much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps  
remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate  
numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of  
women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Homily

### Bidding Prayers

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Preparation of the Gifts

*Music: Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

### Prayer over the Offerings

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray,  
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice,

make of us an eternal offering to you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Acclamations**

Sanctus En Fa Majeur – Lourdes

*The Mystery of Faith*

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

### **Communion Rite**

*Music:* Love Has Come – Matt Maher

### **Prayer after Communion**

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord,  
those you renew with these heavenly gifts  
and, in your never-failing care for them,  
make them worthy of eternal redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## **Concluding Rite**

### **Blessing & Dismissal**

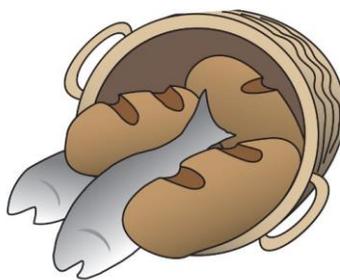
### **Distribution of Communion**

*Music:* O Bread of Heaven

### **Acknowledgements**

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## **SUNDAY REFLECTIONS**



### **Reflection by Eamonn Murphy, a parishioner of St Bartholomew's, Rainhill**

Words of compassion and comfort leap out from the page of today's readings.

*'O come to the water all who are thirsty.'*

'You're welcome, it's good to see you.' Isn't it wonderful to know and to experience that another person is delighted to see you and be in your company?

And then, to hear that the Lord is kind and full of compassion. He is close to all who call on him from

their hearts. No condemnation for whatever it is you condemn yourself for and then to hear that 'Nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Jesus.'

Such compassion! Even in the midst of grieving for his friend John the Baptist, he doesn't turn his back on the people. He is not indifferent to the suffering of the people. His experience of God leads him to show compassion by alleviating the sufferings and the hunger of the people gathered around him.

The disciples want to send the people to the local villages. In other words, let them solve the problem themselves. What about those who cannot buy food? Jesus' response: 'You feed them. You give them something to eat.'

This is when the words of compassion, these wonderful words of comfort, become disturbing words: words inviting us to be compassionate; words inviting us to hear the cry of the refugee; words inviting us to accompany the young in their search for meaning.

I am constantly amazed at the unselfish compassion of parents for their children even when they are adult children, helping them out of one crisis after another. The multiple acts of compassion of those who reached out and continue to do so during this time of COVID-19. People are so good.

Jesus' words are still disturbing words because I think they are words you and I do not really want to hear. As someone who is comfortable, I even have a problem hearing the prayer 'Give us this day our daily bread.' US and not ME but US - sisters and brothers. You give them something to eat, not send them to buy food but give food. So it's about sharing our bounty. Sharing what we have.

I believe that if we open ourselves to feel the pain of our brothers and sisters, opportunities to share responsibly will present themselves. Trust.

*Bless us, O Lord, and these, thy gifts,  
which we are about to receive from thy bounty.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Poem by Mary Oliver**

*Logos*

Why worry about the loaves and fishes?  
If you say the right words, the wine expands.  
If you say them with love  
and the felt ferocity of that love  
and the felt necessity of that love,  
the fish explode into many.  
Imagine him, speaking,  
and don't worry about what is reality,  
or what is plain, or what is mysterious.  
If you were there, it was all those things.  
If you can imagine it, it is all those things.  
Eat, drink, be happy.  
Accept the miracle.  
Accept, too, each spoken word  
spoken with love.