

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
6th September 2020

Entrance Procession

Music: All creatures of our God and King

Penitential Act

You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

R. We confess our demand that the earth produce beyond its limits, and our bondage to desire more.

You call us to pause from sowing, pruning, and reaping in ways that destroy the soil.

R. We confess our vicious consumption of food and energy.

You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.

R. We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the earth's limits.

You affirm that our security is found in enough.

R. We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.

You tell us that the land must not be sold permanently, because the land is yours, and everything in it.

R. We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift.

You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed our neighbours, animals, and replenish the earth.

R. We confess our failure to share what we receive from the earth.

You call us to fairness and justice.

R. We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbours as ourselves.

Turn us from fear and mistrust,

R. And free us to imagine a life reconciled to the earth and all creatures, through the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Collect

God of the universe,
you graciously give us all good gifts.
Teach us to care for the earth:

to till the soils responsibly, to keep the air pure,
to free the waters from pollution,
to harvest the warmth of the sun,
to protect the climate
and to respect the rights of all species.
May we share the gifts of your goodness with all.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

(Romans 13: 8-10)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95

**R. If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

- 1 Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;
let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.
- 2 Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the Lord who made us.
For he is our God, and we are the people he
shepherds, the flock he guides.

Gospel Acclamation (Lourdes)

Gospel

(Matthew 18: 15-20)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by

my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: Air from Water Music – G F Handel

Prayer over the Offerings

Creator God,
may these gifts,
the fruits of the earth and the work of human hands,
become for us the body and blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever.

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: For the beauty of the earth – John Rutter

Prayer after Communion

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

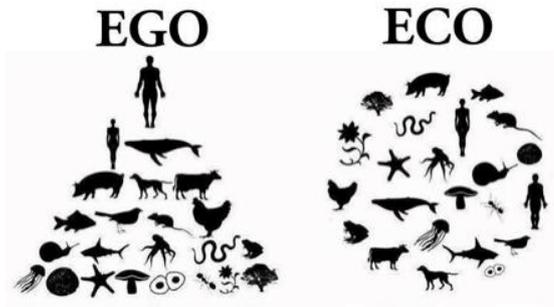
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

(From the encyclical, Laudato Si', by Pope Francis)

Concluding Rite

Distribution of Communion

Music: Make me a channel of your peace



Acknowledgements

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Words from Pope Francis



"We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family."

"The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish."

"Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last 200 years."

"We are not God. The Earth was here before us and was given to us."

"The idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology ... is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry at every limit."

"Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start."