

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

Palm Sunday (A)
5 April 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

As we journey through the second week of lockdown, we arrive at the most important week of the year for Christians – **Holy Week**. Although we can't gather together physically as we usual do, we can join each other in prayer as we remember and celebrate what Jesus did for us: how he suffered, died and rose to new life.

Palm Sunday

On this first day of Holy Week, we recall Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem. I will bless palms in church and keep them for you. You might like to have a little service at home. There are some resources on the parish website.

Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday evening, we recall the way Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and shared the Last Supper. Again, you might like to have a little celebration at home using the resource I'll post on the parish website. At the moment, my congregation numbers 2 – my cats! So I might be washing paws instead of feet this year!

Good Friday

All over the world on Good Friday, Christians stop whatever they are doing to celebrate the Passion of the Lord at 3.00 pm. Let's read the Passion together, pray for the world and venerate the Cross. I'll post a simple liturgy on the parish website for you to use if you wish.

Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday

Finally, on Holy Saturday night, the holiest night of the year, we keep the 'mother of all vigils' (St

Augustine). The big Easter candle is lit proclaiming "Christ is risen". We read the stories of what God has done for his people through the ages. We renew our baptism and celebrate Christ's risen presence with us always. Again, I'll post a resource you can use on the parish website to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus - greatest feast of the Church's year.

Yes, it will be different this year, but we can still celebrate this Great Week together in spirit, be encouraged by doing so, and filled with hope in our risen Lord who greets each of us with the words: "Peace be with you".

With my prayers,
Fr Dave

Useful Information

1) **I'm Still Here!**

Although the Churches and Parish Office are closed, I am still available. You can contact me by phone (01925 630127) or by email frdave@rcaolp.co.uk

2) **Parish Website**

I am updating the Parish Website each day with news, as we get it, as well as prayers and reflections which I hope are hopeful. If you know of any parishioners who don't have internet access and would like to receive items that I'm posting during the lockdown, please forward their name and address to me and I will add them to the mailing list.

3) **Mass Online**

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

➔ 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

Please note: for Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday, the livestream will be at 11.00 am. The Cathedral is also livestreaming the Holy Week ceremonies. For further details: www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

➔ Fr John McLaughlin is also 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. I am posting resources you can use on the parish website. If you have children, why not get them to set up a prayer table – they're used to doing this in school, and it's a great way of involving them and allowing them to be creative.

5) Penance Service

Since we are unable to gather for our usual Service of Reconciliation during Holy Week this year, I will post a liturgy you can use at home on the parish website on Tuesday.

6) Buddy System

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

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, you can find more information at:

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

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today	Palm Sunday (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 50: 4-7 Philippians 2: 6-11 Matthew 26: 14-27: 66
Thursday	Holy Thursday
Friday	Good Friday <i>Day of Fast and Abstinence</i>
Saturday	Holy Saturday
Next Sunday	Easter Day

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week: The Parishioners, Private Intention (LISC), Marion Naughton, Nora Buchanan, Agnes & Gerard Dolan, and James Robinson.

YEAR OF THE WORD

Lenten Calendar – Holy Week

A line from the Scriptures at Mass for each day of the week:

SUN	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
MON	The Lord is my light and my help.
TUE	It is you, O Lord, who are my hope.
WED	The Lord comes to my help.
THU	Love one another just as I have loved you.
FRI	Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
SAT	Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

POPE FRANCIS

→ Let us pray together for those who are homeless. In this moment when everyone is supposed to be at home, may society help them and may the Church welcome them (*31 March*).

→ Let us pray together for the many people who are not succeeding in coping and remain in fear because of this pandemic. May the Lord help them to have the strength to cope for the good of the entire community (*30 March*).

→ I am thinking of the many people who are weeping. We, too, accompany them from our hearts. It wouldn't do us any harm to weep a bit as our Lord wept for all of His people (*29 March*).

→ But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: "Do not be afraid" (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, "cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us" (cf. 1 Pet 5:7).

DONATIONS

Many thanks to the person who posted £100 through the Priory letterbox on Thursday to help someone who is struggling because of the pandemic. May I also thank those who've offered to make donations either by bank transfer or cheque. It's so very kind of you and I will acknowledge these in due course. *Fr Dave*

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.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Michael Kevan Byrne & Marie Kane.

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