

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**Easter Sunday (A)**

**12 April 2020**

**"This is the day that God has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad in it!"**

*(Psalm 117)*

A very happy Easter to you all! May the joy of this day – the greatest day of the year for Christians – lift your spirits and bring hope to your hearts.

With my prayers,  
*Fr Dave*

### **EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP**

It was early in the morning on the first day of the week when the women went to the tomb taking spices to anoint the body of Jesus according to their custom. When they got to the tomb they found the stone rolled away and the body of Jesus had gone, instead they saw a young man dressed in white, an angel, who told them 'He has risen, he is not here, see the place where they laid him'. Their reaction wasn't one of delight, they couldn't understand what was happening, they were afraid, and they ran to tell the disciples. Peter and John ran to the tomb, they saw, and they believed, but like the women they did not understand what had happened.

The Risen Lord then appeared to Mary Magdalen who, thinking that his body had been stolen, was standing by the tomb weeping. She didn't recognise him, she thought he was the gardener, and it was only when he spoke her name that she knew him and having seen him understood.

That same day two of the disciples were walking to Emmaus, a village about seven miles from Jerusalem, when another traveller, Jesus, joined them on the road. They didn't recognise him and told him about everything that had happened. When they reached Emmaus they invited the 'mystery traveller' to stay with them and when he broke the bread at the table

they recognised Jesus and, even though it was late, they went back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples.

It was eight days later when Jesus appeared to the disciples that Thomas recognised the Risen Lord. He had refused to believe, he wanted proof and Jesus gave him that proof saying, 'doubt no longer but believe'. He then went further and said, 'have you believed because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'.

The followers of Jesus didn't understand his resurrection. The hope which had been taken from them days before was now about to be realised and they didn't know it. They saw and they believed but it was only when the Risen Lord actually appeared to them that they understood.

The Risen Lord is the same for us today as he was for his disciples. In these days in particular, we do not understand what is happening around us, but we can see the Risen Lord in the lives and work of others. Those who are caring, those who are helping and are giving their time for the good of others.

When Jesus was crucified his followers lost everything, all they had hoped for had gone, there was no future. The resurrection changed all that and hope returned. We too can have that same hope for the future if we recognise the Risen Lord and allow him into our lives.

Let us pray that on this Easter Day the Risen Lord will greet us as he did his disciples with the words 'Peace be with you', will ease our anxieties and calm our fears that we may truly have a Happy Easter.

**Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, OP**

*Archbishop of Liverpool*

### **Useful Information**

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

Although the Churches and Parish Office are closed, Fr Dave is still available. You can contact him by phone (01925 630127) or by email [frdave@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto: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 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) Mass Online**

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

→ 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/liverpoolmetrocdedral](http://www.facebook.com/liverpoolmetrocdedral)

Please note: for Easter Sunday, the livestream will be at 11.00 am and the recording will be uploaded shortly afterwards.

→ Fr John McLaughlin is also uploading Mass from St Stephen's: [www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk](http://www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk)

There are plenty of Masses livestreamed throughout the day at the following websites:

[www.churchservices.tv](http://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. There are resources you can use on the parish website.

#### 5) 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.

#### 6) 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, go to:

[www.warrington.gov.uk/coronavirus-community-support](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/coronavirus-community-support)

#### 7) 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*

#### 8) "Isolated but not alone"

'The Tablet' has a whole host of resources that are very helpful: [www.thetablet.co.uk](http://www.thetablet.co.uk) (scroll down the page).

### POPE FRANCIS

Gaze upon the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again (*10 April*).

From the open heart of the Crucified one, God's love reaches each one of us. Let us allow His gaze to rest on us. We will understand that we are not alone, but loved, for the Lord does not abandon us and He never, ever forgets us (*8 April*).

### CANCELLATIONS

Due to the current pandemic, the following events have been cancelled: Padgate Walking Day, Warrington Walking Day and this year's Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(*Divine Office – Psalter Week 1*)

<b>Today</b>	<b>Easter Sunday (A)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 10: 34a, 37-43 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-9
<b>Weekdays</b>	<b>Easter Octave</b>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Easter (A)</b>

### MASS INTENTIONS

*Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week:* The Parishioners, David Mahon, Pat Buist, Helen Syers, Lizzie Daly, Samuel Taylor, Uncle Fred and Ian David Whelan.

### DONATIONS

Many thanks to those who have made donations to help those who are struggling during the pandemic. This week: £300 (Anon), £200 (Berry Family) and £30 (Anon).

### 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, Clare Holloway.

**Those who have died recently, especially:**

Marie Anne Kane, Joseph Lawlor, Lucy Doherty, John Cassidy, Dom Raphael Aspinwall (Belmont Abbey), Christopher Jones, Paul Walker and Joe Comer.

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