

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



*"And they recognised him in the breaking of bread"
(Luke 24: 35)*

Newsletter

**3rd Sunday of Easter (A)
26 April 2020**

My dear sisters and brothers,

As we complete four weeks in lockdown, it's natural for some folk to get restless. I've noticed more people out and about in recent days, and the number of cars on the roads is increasing. This is not good. If we're not careful, we'll see a second spike in infections which will lead to a longer lockdown. So please encourage those you know who may be tempted to break the lockdown to hang in there for a little longer. Keeping the lockdown is an act of love for one another.

The current pandemic is having an impact on everyone's daily lives. During the lockdown, there may be times when we feel bored, frustrated or lonely. We may also feel low at times, worried, or concerned about our health or that of those close to us. Everyone reacts differently to events. It's important that we take care of ourselves. The government have produced a very useful document entitled, "Guidance for the public on the mental health and wellbeing aspects of coronavirus (COVID-19)". There's a link on the Parish Website: www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk

On a lighter note, Fr John Schofield and I were fitted with the more substantial PPE masks this week in case we're needed in ICU. I thought Fr John's mask was a great improvement, whereas mine makes me look like Hannibal Lector! Anyway, chatting with the staff afterwards, they said how incredible grateful they are for the support they have received from the community. They showed us some of the drawings children had sent them, and rainbows that had been knitted for them which they've been giving to patients.

As someone said to me this week, it's heartening to see how good and kind people are being to each other at this difficult time.

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) **Mass Online**

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.

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, there's more information on the Parish Website.

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 under the title, "Isolated but not alone". Go to www.thetablet.co.uk and scroll down the page.

DONATIONS

Thank you so much to those who have been able to make donations to our parish Caritas Fund. I am using this money to help individuals and families who are struggling during the pandemic. This week: £200 (Anon).

CAFOD EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

CAFOD invite us to join them in a celebration Mass online this Wednesday, 29 April, at 6.00 pm. Please register at www.cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks

MASS FOR THE SICK, NHS WORKERS & THOSE WORKING IN SOCIAL CARE

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those affected by the pandemic, each Thursday at 7.00 pm, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join. You join the Mass here: www.cbcew.org.uk

NEW 24/7 MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

People of all ages, including children and young people, living in Warrington who are experiencing a mental health crisis can now access support through a new, 24/7, mental health crisis line: **01925 275309**.

SYNOD 2020

During these days, we are experiencing different ways of being Church. Our prayer and worship has become transformed, and our sense of community is challenged as we find new and creative ways of coming together to meet, to work, or to check in on each other. In order to consider what our Synod can learn from this experience, an extra period of reflection has begun and will run until 4 May. A short film, together with a leaflet, has been produced to help our reflection: <https://synod2020.co.uk/>

RAMADAN KAREEM

Let us pray for our Muslim sisters and brothers as they begin the observance of their holy month of Ramadan.

POPE FRANCIS

➔ Peter's secret weapon is Jesus's prayer. Jesus prays for Peter that his faith might not fail. What He did with Peter He does for all of us. Jesus prays for us before the Father, showing His wounds, the price of our salvation (23 April).

➔ In the time of trial that we are presently undergoing, we experience our frailty. We need the Lord, who sees an irrepressible beauty beyond that frailty. With Him we rediscover how precious we are, even in our vulnerability (22 April).

➔ The Christian response to the storms of life and history can only be mercy: compassionate love among us and toward everyone, especially toward those who suffer, who have more difficulties, and are abandoned (20 April).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	3rd Sunday of Easter (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 2: 14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1: 17-21 Luke 24: 13-35
Weekdays	3rd Week of Easter
Wednesday	Feast of St Catherine of Siena
Friday	Anniversary of the Foundation of the Parish of Blessed James Bell (2018)
Saturday	St Athanasius
Next Sunday	4th Sunday of Easter (A) World Day of Prayer for Vocations

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week: The Parishioners, Bert Hincliffe, Pat Close (Birthday), The Taylor Family, The Holt Family, Paul Walker and Fr Chris Fallon's niece, Jessica.

FUNERALS

Funerals this week: Aurelie Newton (Tue) and Maureen Warburton (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, Syd Bradshaw, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Barbara Edmondson, Mary Hincliffe, 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:

Aurelie Newton, Maureen Warburton, Clive Wilcox, Liam James Walsh and Norah Mary Hart.

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