

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

6th Sunday of Easter (A)
17 May 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

Following the Prime Minister's address to the nation last Sunday, we learnt that places of worship are unlikely to open before 4 July, and that date depends on successfully controlling the spread of the virus. The Church is in dialogue with the Government and has already submitted a detailed plan, in accordance with public health guidelines, for churches to be opened for private prayer as a first safe step towards their use for public worship.

One of the lovely things to come out of the lockdown is clearer skies and the song of the birds. At St Benedict's, with roads on every side, I rarely hear the birds singing. All that has changed. There are all sorts of birds appearing in the Priory garden – something which is tormenting my two cats! Luckily, they've not caught any so far!

The lockdown has perhaps been a gentle reminder to us of the beauty of creation which we've not only taken for granted, but also damaged enormously by not looking after the environment and the animals God has entrusted to us. There have been plenty of voices in recent years calling us to change, but our response hasn't been great. Perhaps one of the good things to come out of the pandemic will be the rediscovery of our role as stewards of creation – to care for it, nurture it, and pass it on to future generations as the gift that it is and as good as new!

A few parishioners have asked what they should do with their weekly offertory envelopes. It's true that the parish finances have taken a hit during the lockdown and will continue to do so for some time to come. May I suggest putting your weekly offering

aside each week and then bringing it to church once we're open again? Alternatively, you could set up a standing order. You can download a form from the Parish Website. You can now also make one-off and regular donations to the Parish online at this address:

<https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/blessed-james-bell-warrington>

How cool is that? And there's more! Text giving is now also available for the Parish for both one-off and regular donations. I'll post details on the Parish Website next week.

Finally, last week I posted a prayer on the Parish Website from Raymond Friel, a head teacher for many years who is now CEO of a multi-academy trust of 36 Catholic schools in Plymouth. This week, I offer you his prayer to Mary, Mother of God:

**Hail Mary, full of grace,
bearer of God into a world of suffering,
pray for us now
in this valley of tears,
this valley of disorientation.
Be with us in our strange exile
as we ponder all these things
with pierced hearts
and look for a safe way home.**

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) **Struggling during the Lockdown?**

If you are struggling during the lockdown – to put food on the table or to make ends meet, lonely, worried about your mental health or whatever – do please contact Fr Dave and he will do everything he can to source assistance for you.

4) **Sunday Mass**

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. 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 for both adults and children on Fr Dave's blog on the Parish Website.

5) Warrington Hospital & Care Homes

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 dying. 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 and pray with them over the phone. This avoids the risk of spreading infection between the wards. Fr John and I are also happy to visit local Care Homes if loved ones are critically ill or in danger of death. *Fr Dave*

6) Mass for the Sick, NHS Staff & Care Workers

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those affected by the pandemic, one of the Bishops is celebrating Mass each Thursday at 7.00 pm which is live-streamed here: www.cbcew.org.uk

EASTER HAMPERS

Although we didn't get much chance to sell tickets for the Easter Hampers this year, we thought we better draw the tickets before the items go out of date!

St Benedict's Winners

Pink Ticket 766-770 Anjalina Akxwin

Yellow Ticket 26-30 Alban Boyle

All proceeds will go to next year's Walking Day.

St Oswald's Winners

1st Prize – Clare Moran, 2nd Prize – John Lawless,
3rd Prize – Tom Fiddler.

£144 was raised for our Parish Caritas Fund which supports those in need in the local community.

Many thanks to everyone who was able to contribute, and to Jayne, Clem and Miriam for organising the hampers.

PARISH WEBSITE

There are lots of resources under 'News' on the front page of the Parish Website which you may find helpful at this time. Do check it out.

POPE FRANCIS

➔ May God have mercy on us and put an end to this tragedy, this pandemic, as well as the pandemics of hunger, war, and children without an education. This we ask as brothers and sisters, everyone together (14 May).

➔ Mother of the Lord, Virgin Mary, Queen of the Rosary, show us the power of your protective mantle. From your arms come the hope and peace of which we are sorely in need (13 May).

➔ Jesus indicates two remedies for being troubled in heart. First: to not depend on ourselves but to have faith in Him. Second: to remember that here we are passing through and that Jesus has reserved us a place in Heaven (10 May).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today	6th Sunday of Easter (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17 1 Peter 3: 15-18 John 14: 15-21
Weekdays	6th Week of Easter
Thursday	The Ascension of the Lord
Next Sunday	7th Sunday of Easter (A) <i>World Communications Day</i>

Please note: in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed.

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week: The Parishioners, Wall Family, Alan James, Baby John Joseph Ortega, Patrick Naughton and Maureen Holt.

FUNERALS

Funerals this week: John Delee (Mon), Veronica Edwards (Tue) and Syd Bradshaw (Tue). 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, 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, Miriam Jones.

Other Parishes

Catherine Donaldson, Alan Brompton, Veronica Baker, John Hughes (Vietnam), Bishop Vincent Malone, Fr Bill Murphy, Clare Holloway, Mgr Tony Dennick.

Those who have died recently, especially:

John Delee, Veronica Edwards, Syd Bradshaw, Joseph Gannon, Baby John Joseph Ortega and Jo Busby.

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