

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (A)
7 June 2020**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Seeing pictures of crowded beaches, demonstrations ignoring social distancing, and cars queuing for up to two hours at McDonalds, you could be forgiven for thinking that the lockdown is over. But it isn't. As the Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, said on Tuesday: "We shouldn't take the fact that small adjustments are being made now to imply that this is suddenly lockdown over... This is an infection with which we are going to have to live alongside for many months and probably longer than that." In addition, it is estimated that the R value has risen to 1.1 in the North West. So we need to continue to take great care of ourselves and each other, especially by regular hand-washing and social distancing.

The lockdown came at very short notice and was a massive change for all of us. In just a few hours, our whole way of life changed. We all respond to change in different ways. Initially, we may go into what might be called 'emergency mode' where we get on with it, doing what needs to be done. As time goes on, while we may remain quite resilient, our sleep might be affected, we may have days when we feel 'down' but can't quite work out why, we may find it difficult to pray or to concentrate on what we're doing, and so on.

All this is completely normal. It's our body's way of saying, "Hey! What the hell is going on?" When we feel like this, we need to be gentle with ourselves and perhaps take some time out to reflect on the enormity of the changes we're going through, and what might help us to deal with all we're experiencing. There are some resources on the front page of the Parish Website (on the left-hand side) which may be helpful.

Last week, I mentioned that some of our churches may be able to open for private prayer from 4 July. While this has yet to be confirmed, preparations are underway. I will propose to the Archbishop that we open St Benedict's first because in normal circumstances it is open each day for private prayer, and its size will make it easier to safely manage. We will need volunteers to assist with sanitising, cleaning and monitoring while the church is open. If this is something you feel you could do, and you are fit and well with no underlying health conditions, then please let me know by phone or email so that I can begin to get a list together. Training will be provided, and we can sort out a rota nearer the time.

Finally, some children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be returning to school this week. I would like to thank our senior leaders, Ms Lennon and Mrs Orwin at St Oswald's, and Mrs Orrell at St Benedict's, together with the staff of both schools, not only for the amazing way they have managed to keep our schools open since the beginning of the lockdown - providing for the children of key workers and all those children who've been learning at home, but for all the preparations they've made for the return of more children on Monday. Let's keep them all in our prayers especially this week.

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 (www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk) 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 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 continue to cover the hospital for the time being. If you have a loved one in hospital who would like to see a priest, please let us know or ask the hospital to page us. Fr John and I are also happy to visit local Care Homes if a loved one is critically ill or in danger of death. Simply ask the Care Home to phone Fr John or I and we will visit as soon as possible. *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 at: www.cbcew.org.uk

PARISH CARITAS DONATIONS

Many thanks once again to those who have been able to make donations to help those who are struggling at this time. This week: £50 (Anon), £20 (Anon), £50 (Anon), £20 (Anon).

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

There are four ways you can continue to support the parish financially during the lockdown:

- 1) You could put your weekly offering aside each week and then bring it to church once we're open again.
- 2) You could set up a standing order – there's a form you can download on the Parish Website.
- 3) You can now make one-off and regular donations to the Parish online at this address:

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

- 4) Text giving is now also available for the Parish for both one-off and regular donations. Details can be found on the Parish Website.

POPE FRANCIS

➔ We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form. At the same time, we have to recognize that violence is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost. Let us pray for reconciliation and peace (3 June).

➔ Let us invoke the Holy Spirit. May He give light and strength to the Church and society in the Amazon region, sorely tried by the pandemic. I pray for the poorest of that precious Region and the world. And I plead that they may not lack health care (2 June).

➔ Let's view the Church with the Spirit's eyes not with the world's which sees us on the right or left. The Spirit sees sons & daughters of the Father, Jesus's brothers & sisters. The world sees conservatives and progressives. The Spirit sees children of God (31 May).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today	Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
<i>Readings</i>	Exodus 34: 4b-6, 8-9 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 John 3: 16-18
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 10
Thursday	St Barnabas
Saturday	St Anthony of Padua
Next Sunday	Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (<i>Corpus Christi</i>)

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week: The Parishioners, Private Intention, Maureen Holt, Pope Francis, Sarah Boardman, Staff & Children of our Schools, All those who have died during the Pandemic.

FUNERALS

Funeral this week: Peter Lomax (Friday). Please keep Peter's family and friends in your prayers.

If you are unable to attend a funeral during 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), Clare Holloway.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Peter Lomax.



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.