

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
21 June 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

Reopening our Churches

Last week, as part of the easing of the lockdown restrictions, we were able to open three churches in the Pastoral Area for private prayer: St Benedict's, St Joseph's in Penketh and St Mary's Shrine. It's hard to find the words to describe the joy I felt when we opened St Benedict's on Tuesday morning. It was as if the building came to life again. It was so uplifting to see familiar faces popping in and to be able to pray in the company of others. I don't know about you, but I find it so much easier to pray when others are praying nearby at the same time.

Five teams of two parishioners have been on hand throughout the week to welcome people, to guide and sanitise, and to help to keep us all safe. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to reopen the church at this stage. So a very big thanks to them.

There is no obligation to come to church, but at least you know it's open if you want to call in. This week, we'll keep the same times:

Monday to Friday 10.30 am – 2.30 pm

Sunday 10.00 am – 12.30 pm

During these times, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament accompanied by some quiet, reflective music.

Is it all over?

When I was driving to the hospital last Monday, I was a bit shocked to see the number of cars on the roads –

it felt like we were back to the days before the lockdown began. Then, on Tuesday, I was stunned to be greeted in the street with the words, "Isn't it great that it's all over!" Well, I'm afraid it's not all over – far from it! Even though the lockdown restrictions are being eased, Covid-19 is still with us and will be with us for some time to come. It's incredibly important that we maintain an abundance of caution and not put ourselves or others at risk of infection. This is one of the reasons it will be some time before we are able to gather to celebrate the sacraments again, even with social distancing.

Grandparents

The picture at the top of the newsletter usually relates to the Sunday Gospel, but this week's picture is different. It's a painting by the Spanish artist, Juan Lucena, in honour of all those grandparents who have died of Covid-19 and were not able to say goodbye to their grandchildren. It's a very powerful image. Today, perhaps we could pray for grandparents, especially those who are isolated and haven't seen anyone during the last three months, and for those who are in hospital and not able to receive visitors. Let's pray too for all those who have died during the pandemic, especially those who died without seeing their families for the last time.

And finally... Happy Father's Day!

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.

3) 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. I am also available to visit local Care Homes if a loved one is critically ill or in danger of death. Simply ask the Care Home to phone me and I will visit as soon as possible. *Fr Dave*

4) Churches Open for Private Prayer

In addition to St Benedict's, **St Joseph's in Penketh** is open Monday to Friday (10.00 am – 1.00 pm) and **St Mary's Shrine** is open Monday to Saturday (8.00 – 10.00 am & 4.00 – 6.00 pm), and on Sunday (2.00 – 5.00 pm).

LOURDES YOUTH

Young people from Warrington and Widnes usually travel on Coach 6 as part of the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Since this year's pilgrimage has been cancelled, the young people have been challenged to run, cycle or walk the 1002 miles they would have travelled to reach Lourdes. They hope to raise funds by being sponsored £1 for each mile they 'travel'. If you feel able to support them, please follow this link to make a donation: <https://gf.me/u/x4wd3i> (You can also Google 'Go Fund Me Lourdes Coach 6' to find the page). Many thanks.

NHS TEST & TRACE SCAM

Criminals are exploiting the current pandemic to try and get their hands on your money and personal information. The most recent scam to come to light is with the NHS Test and Trace service. *Please note:* Contact tracers will only call you from the number **0300 013 5000**, they will never ask for any form of payment, and there is no need to download anything.

PARISH CARITAS DONATIONS

My sincere thanks to those who have been able to make donations to help those who are struggling at this time. *This week:* £150 (BL), £50 (Bingo), £50 (Ron).

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 when you next visit.
- 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. Details can be found on the Parish Website.

JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY

This year's Liverpool Justice and Peace Annual Assembly will be held online over four days: 28 & 29 June, 1 & 4 July. You can find full details on the Parish Website.

POPE FRANCIS

➔ The Lord cannot enter into hard or ideological hearts. The Lord enters into hearts that are like His: hearts that are open and compassionate (18 June).

➔ Our principle of unity is the Holy Spirit who reminds us that above all we are God's beloved children. He comes to us, in our differences and difficulties to tell us that we have one Lord, Jesus, and one Father. For this reason we are brothers and sisters! (15 June).

➔ The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that our societies are not organized well enough to make room for the elderly, with proper respect for their dignity and frailty. When the elderly are not cared for, there is no future for the young (15 June).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) (Day for Life – www.dayforlife.org)
Readings	Jeremiah 20: 10-13 Romans 5: 12-15 Matthew 10: 26-33
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 12
Monday	Saints John Fisher & Thomas More
Wednesday	Nativity of St John the Baptist
Next Sunday	Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week: The Parishioners, Private Intention, Seamus McGuinness, Michael Wood, Ted Garrity and Brenda Malone.

FUNERALS

This week: Malcolm Pearce (Wed). If you know someone who has died and you are unable to attend their funeral, 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

Vera Brindle, Ann Brown, Barbara Edmondson, Josie Hackwell, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Thomas Ireland, Susan Keating, Peter Milner, Jean Molphy, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Ernie Roocroft, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Brenda Snelson, Matilde Valentine, Paul Vernon, Paul Whitlow.

St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo.

St Oswald's

Catherine Carne, Susan Disley, Betty Fiddler, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Mary Massey, Mike McCarrick, Jo Roberts, Margaret Watts (nee McGinty).

Other Parishes

Veronica Baker, Alan Brompton, Catherine Donaldson, Clare Holloway, John Hughes (Vietnam).

Those who have died recently, especially:

Malcolm Pearce, Anne-Marie McAteer.

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.