

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul, Apostles
28 June 2020**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Is it 2 meters or 1 metre?

It's interesting the way the news is presented sometimes. Last Wednesday morning, there was a headline in one of the newspapers saying, "2m rule axed". But that's not what the Prime Minister said. In a further easing of the lockdown, Boris Johnson said that from 4 July, the '2m rule' will be supplemented by a new '1m plus rule'. In other words, we should maintain the 2m rule, but when this is not possible, we can be 1m apart as long as there are mitigations, i.e. wearing a mask, having a screen between you, washing hands, facing in the same direction, etc.

When can we celebrate Mass in church again?

This weekend, there is a letter from the Metropolitan Archbishops. You can read the letter on the Parish Website. In their letter, the Archbishops say that **"at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended... We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going 'back to normal'."**

Having said that, I am delighted to say that we will be able to celebrate Mass together again in church from Monday 6 July. How we will do this – and at what times – will be worked out this week, and I will post all the details on the Parish Website and in next weekend's newsletter.

Once again, I am indebted to the volunteers who are helping us to keep the church open for private prayer. They are going to be needed for quite some time. At present, 10 parishioners are working in pairs to cover 2 hours twice a week. **We could really do with another**

10 parishioners to cover just 2 hours a week to lighten the burden. I have two volunteers already, so we need another eight. Could you help? Let me know by phone or email as soon as possible. Thanks.

Seeing Beyond Ourselves

Something that has concerned me and many others throughout the current pandemic are those places in the world that don't have the leadership or healthcare that we have. India, for example, seems to have enough money for space projects, but not enough to provide sufficient healthcare or job security for its people. Brazil has a leader in denial – even the drug cartels are doing more to protect people from the virus than the President! In Yemen, which has been devastated by conflict since 2015, millions of people have been left without access to proper healthcare, clean water or sanitation. There are many other places too.

Thankfully, CAFOD reaches out on our behalf to all these people. You can see what they are doing and support them here: www.cafod.org.uk

Let's have a good 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.

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

This week, the following churches will be open for private prayer in the Pastoral Area:

St Benedict's will be open Monday to Friday 10.30 am – 2.30 pm, and on Sunday 10.00 am – 12.30 pm.

St Joseph's, Penketh, will be open Monday to Friday 10.00 am – 1.00 pm.

St Mary's Shrine will be 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.

JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY

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

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

Many thanks to those who have been able to make donations to help those who are struggling at this time. *This week:* £100 (Anon), £50 (Anon), £5 (Anon)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

There are four ways you can continue to support the parish financially at this time:

- 1) You could put your weekly offering aside 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.

POPE FRANCIS

➔ God created us for communion, for fraternity. Now more than ever the pretence of focusing everything on ourselves, making individualism society's guiding principle, has proven illusory. We have to be careful! When the emergency is over we can easily fall back into this illusion (23 June).

➔ Dear Doctors and Nurses, the world saw how much good you did in a very difficult situation. Even when you were exhausted, you continued dedicating yourselves with professionalism and self-sacrifice. This

generates hope. My esteem and sincere thanks go to you! (20 June).

➔ The Lord always watches over us with mercy. Let us not be afraid of approaching him! He has a merciful heart! If we show him our inner wounds, our inner sins, he will always forgive us. It is pure mercy! Let us go to Jesus! (19 June).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul
<i>Readings</i>	Acts of the Apostles 12: 1-11 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18 Matthew 16: 13-19
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 13
Friday	Feast of St Thomas, Apostle
Next Sunday	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Dave will offer Mass for the following intentions this week: The Parishioners, Private Intention, Maureen Holt, Guy Ryan, Parishes of the Pastoral Area, Newly ordained Fr Peter Murphy.

FUNERALS

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), Fr Bernard Eager.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Anne-Marie McAteer, Fr Anthony Johnson CSsR.

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.