

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
2 August 2020**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Loaves and Fish

Today's Gospel is Matthew's account of Jesus feeding five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. The picture above is of a mosaic in the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes in Tabgha along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The mosaic was discovered during excavations in 1932 and is now situated in the floor in front of the altar of the new church which was built on the site in 1982.

The Darkened Room!

With all that's been going on, I've not managed to have a break since Christmas, and I'm feeling pretty weary. So this week I'm off on staycation, or as Terry Wogan used to say, "Off to the Darkened Room!" to rest and recover some energy. Celia will still be around in the Parish Office, but the church will be closed during the week to give our valiant stewards a break too! I do hope you manage to have some time to rest this month too.

Keeping the Church Open

Once again, I would like to thank the parishioners who have volunteered as stewards. In order for us to open the church for Mass and private prayer, we have to have stewards on duty to ensure the safety of all those who come to church. Quite a number of churches in the Archdiocese haven't been able to open yet because of the difficulty in recruiting volunteers.

We have been blest with 24 stewards – 8 cover the two Sunday Masses, and 16 rotate over two weeks to keep the church open during the week. But we could do with more. There are Baptisms, First Communions and Weddings coming up that all need stewards. If we are to have Funerals in church again and open St Oswald's for Mass, we need more stewards.

So, if you are fit and well and could spare a couple of hours every other week, please let me know so that I can get you trained and add you to the list. We are going to need stewards for the foreseeable future, so the more the better – it helps to spread the load.

With my continued prayers for you all,
Fr Dave

General Information

1) **Fr Dave** is available by phone (01925 630127) or by email frdave@rcaolp.co.uk Address: St Benedict's Priory, Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE.

2) Parish Office

The Parish Office is now open but on a part-time basis until September. Celia is available: Monday to Friday, 10.30 am – 2.30 pm. If possible, please make an appointment rather than just turning up. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: blessedjamesbell@rcaolp.co.uk

3) 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.

4) Funerals

Although the Government has given permission for funerals to take place in church again – with a maximum of 30 people and other restrictions – we are not able to celebrate these in church at present. For now, funerals will continue to be celebrated at the graveside or crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery or crematorium authorities. A Memorial Mass or Service can be celebrated in church at a later date.

5) Sacrament of Reconciliation

Individual confession can be celebrated on request (as long as hygiene and social distancing requirements are observed).

6) Care of the Sick

Please contact Fr Dave if you are concerned about a loved one at home, in hospital, or in a care home.

TEMPORARY MASS TIMES AT ST BENEDICT'S

Tuesday to Friday	11.00 am
Sunday	10.00 am & 12.00 noon

*The church is open for private prayer
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:*

Tuesday to Friday	10.30 am – 1.00 pm
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THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 10.00 am Special Intention
12.00 noon The Parishioners

No weekday Masses this week

Sunday 10.00 am Pat Curley
12.00 noon The Parishioners

NUMBERS AT MASS

With social distancing, we can only admit 50 people to church at present. However, those from the same household can sit together which increases the number we can admit. To give you some idea of numbers coming to church, these are last week's numbers: Sun 10.00 am **52**, Sun 12.00 noon **25**, Weekdays: Tue **12**, Wed **23**, Thu **17**, Fri **19**. **Please remember:** there is no Sunday obligation at present. So, if you are able to attend weekday Mass as an alternative to Sunday, please do so.

VISITS TO THE HOMEBOUND

The Deacons and I would like to visit with communion (and wearing PPE) all those who are homebound, have been shielding or continue to self-isolate during the month of August. However, **so as not to put anyone under pressure, please phone the Parish Office (630127) if you would like us to visit you. We will only arrange to visit you if you ask us to.** *Fr Dave*

FUNDRAISER FOR CARITAS

If you could you use a washable, environmentally friendly face covering, which also helps those who are in need, there are 25 such coverings on sale as you leave church today. Each covering is made from 2 layers of cotton with a concealed filter pocket (should you choose to use a filter), a wire nose piece for a snug fit – and to stop the mask slipping and glasses steaming up, and soft elastic for the ears. There's a suggested donation of £4 which will go to our Parish Caritas Fund to support those most in need in our community. Many thanks to Clare Lancaster for making the coverings.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The closure of churches has meant our parish income is down by approximately £18K this year. While that's a significant chunk of our yearly income and will make it almost impossible to balance the books this year, parishioners have once again been amazing. We've just counted up all the offerings handed in from March to June and the total is: **£4561.98!** This is a massive help and I am so very grateful. I hope to have July's total next weekend. I am also indebted to those who've been able to donate to a Parish Caritas Fund during the lockdown. We've spent this money supporting those in most need, and I'll be able to give you a breakdown soon. *Fr Dave*

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today **18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**
Readings Isaiah 55: 1-3
Romans 8: 35, 37-39
Matthew 14: 13-21
Weekdays Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 18
Tuesday St John Vianney
Wednesday St Oswald, King & Martyr
Thursday **Feast of the Transfiguration**
Saturday St Dominic
Sunday **19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

FEAST OF ST OSWALD

Next Wednesday, 5 August, is the Feast of St Oswald, King & Martyr. Usually I transfer this feast and that of St Benedict to the nearest Sunday so that we can celebrate the patron saints of our churches and schools together. Given the extraordinary situation in which we find ourselves and the limited numbers permitted in church at any one time, I think it is best to postpone the celebration of our patronal saints until later in the year.

FUNERALS

This week: Geoffrey William Fallon (Monday) & Anne-Marie McAteer (Friday).

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), Peter Cox.

Other Parishes

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

Those who have died recently, especially:

Geoffrey William Fallon & 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.