

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

19 July 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

Sunday Mass

When I woke up last Sunday morning, it felt like Easter Day! Usually on Easter Sunday I wake up with a mixture of weariness and excitement – weariness because it's the culmination of a long week of special celebrations, and excitement because Easter Day is the greatest day of the year for Christians. Last Sunday, I felt that same weariness because, like so many, I've not had a break since Christmas; but I also felt excited because it was the first time in four months that we could celebrate Sunday Mass together again in church.

We had two Masses last Sunday at the new temporary times of 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. They were beautiful, gentle, joy-filled celebrations even with the restrictions we must have in church just now. I was relieved that we weren't faced with the dilemma of having to turn anyone away. Thankfully, parishioners are being cautious and not venturing out too quickly.

There were 35 people at the 10.00 am Mass (plus 4 stewards), and 13 people at the 12.00 noon Mass (plus 5 stewards). We realised that, since a household counts as 'one', we can actually get more than 50 people in church for Mass – probably up to 65. When we reach our maximum number at both Masses, I'll add a third Mass if necessary. Numbers at weekday Mass are averaging between 15-20.

Please remember – there is no Sunday obligation at present. So please don't feel you 'have' to come to Mass, especially if you are shielding or don't feel comfortable venturing out just yet. Trust your instincts.

Face Coverings

It's important to wear a face covering when you come to Mass at the moment. We don't do this for ourselves, but for others. However, in line with Government advice, we do not expect children under the age of 11 to wear a covering, or those who are exempt for medical reasons (including distress).

End of Term

Like most people, I frequently lose track of time at the moment. I can't believe it's the middle of July and the schools are breaking up. St Oswald's broke up on Friday and St Benedict's will break up 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 also for the ways they've welcomed back children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in recent weeks. Contrary to what we've heard in the media, the children who attend our schools have not been deprived of an education or welfare during the last four months but have been served brilliantly by our schools and their parents.

Parish Office

Having completed a 26-page risk assessment, Celia was able to come back to work this week – and it's really good to have her back. For the time being, Celia will be working part-time: Monday to Friday, 10.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Church Opening Times

St Benedict's Church has been open for five weeks now. It takes 24 volunteers to keep the church open for Mass and private prayer each week. Since we've been able to celebrate daily Mass again, the numbers visiting during the afternoon has dropped to 1 or 2. So, beginning this week, I've decided to close a little earlier at 1.00 pm instead of 2.30 pm. This will reduce the load on our volunteers who we are going to need for the foreseeable future.

Rest

Finally, I think most of us are in need of a break at the moment. I hope to take the inside of a week at the beginning of August. I hope you can manage a break in the next few weeks too.

The pandemic is far from over and we're going to have to get used to doing things differently until it is. The lockdown has affected us all in different ways and the easing of restrictions can feel quite frightening. That's completely normal. It's important that we are gentle

with ourselves and attend to our own needs as well as the needs of others. We're no good to anyone if we don't look after ourselves! So do take care, stay safe, trust your instincts and only venture out as you feel.

With my prayers,
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 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) Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals

Although the Government has given permission for these sacraments to take place in church again – with a maximum of 30 people and other restrictions – we are not ready to celebrate these sacraments in church at present. The priests of the area will review this situation at the end of July. 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.

4) Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

5) Care of the Sick

For now, Communion and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick can only be given to those who are critically ill or in danger of death. 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:

Tuesday to Friday	10.30 am – 1.00 pm
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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:* £60 (Anon), £50 (Anon), £50 (Anon).

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday	10.00 am	Those who have died during the pandemic
	12.00 noon	The Parishioners
Tuesday	11.00 am	Nadine Davies
Wednesday	11.00 am	Care Workers
Thursday	11.00 am	Those who are sick
Friday	11.00 am	Private Intention
Sunday	10.00 am	The Parishioners
	12.00 noon	NHS Staff

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19 Romans 8: 26-27 Matthew 13: 24-43
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 16
Wednesday	Feast of St Mary Magdalene
Thursday	Feast of St Bridget
Saturday	Feast of St James, Apostle
Sunday	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

FUNERALS

This week: Arthur Stratford (Tue), John Roy Hodson (Fri) & James William Hobson (Fri).

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 Rookcroft, 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:

Arthur Stratford, John Roy Hodson, James William Hobson and Eric Price.

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.