

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
9 August 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

The People of Lebanon

The enormous blast in Beirut on Tuesday evening and the ensuing devastation shocked the world. The people of Lebanon are already suffering economic collapse, as well as desperate overcrowding from all those fleeing the war in Syria. It was especially harrowing for some of our refugee families here in Warrington who have family members and friends living in Lebanon. Thankfully, the international community is rallying around and the first convoys of aid have already arrived in the country.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The mushroom cloud that rose over Beirut last week reminded me of the images of the nuclear explosions over Hiroshima and Nagasaki 75 years ago on 6th and 9th August 1945. On Thursday, Pope Francis tweeted: "On the 75th anniversary of the atomic explosion at Hiroshima, let us remember that resources used in the arms race could and should be used instead to promote integral human development and to protect the natural environment."

Keeping the Church Open

Following my appeal for more volunteer stewards, I've had one response so far. I am hoping there will be more, or I can't see how we can open St Oswald's in September or celebrate funerals in church for the foreseeable future. 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 check your availability. We are going to need stewards for the foreseeable future, so the more the better – it helps to spread the load.

First Communion Masses

Last week, I sent out letters to all the parents of the children whose First Communion has been delayed by

the current pandemic. I am hoping that we will be able to celebrate these Masses in September. Unfortunately, this year's First Communions won't be able to be during the Sunday Masses and attendance will have to be by ticket only because of the numbers permitted in church at any one time. Still, I think it is important that we don't keep the children waiting any longer and celebrate as best we can in the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

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 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

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	Pat Curley
	12.00 noon	The Parishioners
Tuesday	11.00 am	Fr Henry Whisenant
Wednesday	11.00 am	Private Intention
Thursday	11.00 am	Bill Moss
Friday	11.00 am	Marion & Patrick Naughton
Sunday	10.00 am	The Parishioners
	12.00 noon	Teresa Moss

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 to just over 60. To give you some idea of numbers coming to church, these are last Sunday's numbers: Sun 10.00 am **53**, Sun 12.00 noon **23**. *Please remember:* There is no Sunday obligation at present so, if you can attend weekday Mass as an alternative to Sunday, please do.

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*

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

July 2020

Gift Aid Envelopes	£2791.80
Loose (<i>inc. online payments</i>)	£1237.03
Gift Aid Standing Orders	£574.00
Anonymous Donation	£500.00
Total	£5102.83

I know how tough things are financially. Most of us are struggling because of the pandemic. So your generosity to the parish is incredibly humbling. Thank you so much. *Fr D*

PARISH CARITAS DONATIONS

I am also incredibly grateful to those who have been able to make donations to our Parish Caritas Fund so that we can continue to help those who are really struggling in the local community at this time. *This week:* £50 (Anon), £100 (Anon), £50 (Anon), £100 (Anon), £500 (Anon), £10 (Anon) and £91 (from Face Coverings).

POPE FRANCIS

➔ Friendship is one of life's gifts and a grace from God. Faithful friends, who stand at our side in times of difficulty, are a reflection of the Lord's love, His gentle and consoling presence in our lives (*30 July*).

➔ The true pilgrim is capable of going at the pace of the slowest person. And Jesus is capable of this. Jesus is our pilgrim companion. He respects our situation, and does not accelerate the pace. He is the Lord of patience (*25 July*).

➔ On the Day of Judgment we will not be judged for our ideas, but for the compassion we have shown to others (*14 July*).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(*Divine Office – Psalter Week 3*)

Today	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	1 Kings 19: 9a, 11-13a Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 22-33
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 19
Monday	Feast of St Lawrence, Deacon
Friday	St Maximilian Kolbe
Sunday	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (<i>transferred from Saturday</i>)

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 Rookcroft, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Brenda Snelson, Matilde Valentine, Paul Vernon, Paul Whitlow.

St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, Hilda Creagan.

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:

Phil Costello (a friend of Fr Dave's)

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.

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