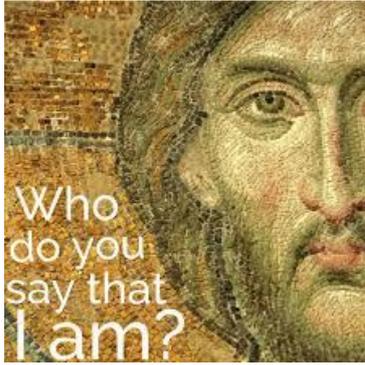


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
23 August 2020**

My dear sisters and brothers,

St Oswald's

St Benedict's has been open for nine weeks now. We were allowed to open mid-June for private prayer, and then in July for the public celebration of Mass. Now that we have more volunteers to act as stewards, I think it's the right time to open St Oswald's Church. But we need to do this slowly and cautiously like we did St Benedict's. The advantage of a slow and cautious opening is that we allow our volunteer stewards and I time to get familiar and used to the protocols we need to have in place, and ensure that we create as safe an environment as possible for all those who come to church.

So, as we did with St Benedict's, we will initially open St Oswald's for private prayer at the beginning of September. Then, later in the month, we will be ready to celebrate the Baptisms and First Communions which have been delayed. I want to be able to celebrate a weekday and a weekend Mass at St Oswald's too, but this may have to wait until after we've celebrated the First Communion Masses.

Although this may seem overly cautious to some, the experience of reopening St Benedict's has been invaluable in teaching us how to operate safely during the pandemic. It's these lessons that are governing the slow and cautious reopening of our churches in the Pastoral Area and across the Archdiocese. We are not back to normal in any way at this stage of the pandemic, rather we are learning how to operate safely in an emergency situation.

Face Coverings or Masks

The Government requires that we wear a face covering or mask when coming to celebrate the sacraments in church. Thank you so much for doing this. We do it

to protect others from droplets than can fall from our mouths onto surfaces that others may touch. So it's a real act of charity – trying to keep others safe. We don't ask those who are exempted to wear coverings or children under the age of 11. I know they are not the most comfortable things to wear having worn them in the hospital and care homes for the last six months, but they do help to keep others safe. The only reason priests don't wear them on the altar is because we are far enough away from the congregation while celebrating Mass, and because you probably wouldn't hear a word we say (which might be a blessing for some!).

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 Office

The Parish Office is open on a part-time basis, Monday to Friday, 10.30 am – 2.30 pm. 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 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 – <u>12.30 pm</u>
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THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday	10.00 am	Those who are sick
	12.00 noon	The Parishioners
Tuesday	11.00 am	Matilde Valentine
Wednesday	11.00 am	Thomas Ireland
Thursday	11.00 am	Jean Molphy
Friday	11.00 am	Mary Seymore
Sunday	10.00 am	The Parishioners
	12.00 noon	Brenda Snelson

NUMBERS AT MASS

With social distancing, we can only admit 50 people to church at present. However, those from the same household or bubble can sit together which increases the number to just over 60. To give you some idea of numbers coming to church, these are last week's numbers: Sun 10.00 am **51**, Sun 12.00 noon **29**, Tue **12**, Wed **21** & Thu **23**. *Please remember:* There is no Sunday obligation at present so, if you can attend weekday Mass as an alternative to Sunday, please do.

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).

SCHOOL OF PRAYER

The Archdiocese has begun a new series exploring different ways of praying, entitled 'School of Prayer': www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/school-of-prayer

EXITING ST BENEDICT'S

We have to have a one-way system in church at present, as all public buildings do, to help prevent the spread of infection. However, if you are struggling to exit St Benedict's via the steps in the Lady Chapel, you can either ask one of the volunteer stewards to help you, or you could wait until everyone has left and exit through the main door of the church. Talk to the stewards – they will be glad to help you in any way they can.

PRAYER

A beautiful prayer from Fr James Martin SJ:

Loving God,

Open our hearts to those most in need:

The unemployed parent

worried about feeding his or her children.

The woman who is underpaid, harassed or abused.

The Black man or woman who fear for their lives.

The immigrant at the border, longing for safety.

The homeless person looking for a meal.

The LGBT teen who is bullied.

The unborn child in the womb.

The inmate on death row.

**Help us to be a nation where every life is sacred,
all people are loved, and all are welcome.**

Amen.

POPE FRANCIS

➔ The response to the pandemic is dual: we need to find a cure for this small but terrible virus which has brought the whole world to its knees and we must cure a larger virus, that of social injustice (*19 August*).

➔ Let us invoke the intercession of the "Mother of hope" for all the situations in the world that are most in need of hope, in particular for the population of the northern region of Nigeria, victim of violence and terrorist attacks (*15 August*).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 22: 19-23 Romans 11: 33-36 Matthew 16: 13-20
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 21
Monday	Feast of St Bartholomew, Apostle
Wednesday	Blessed Dominic Barberi
Thursday	St Monica
Friday	St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor
Saturday	The Passion of St John the Baptist
Sunday	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

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, Jean Hendricks.

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

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

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.