

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
30 August 2020**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Season of Creation

The 1st September is World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The day was introduced into the Church's calendar by Pope Francis in 2015, but it's been observed by our brothers and sisters in the Orthodox Church since 1989. The day marks the beginning of the Season of Creation which lasts until the feast of St Francis on 4th October. During these five weeks, we are invited to pray and care for creation, 'our common home', which is God's gift to us and to future generations. We'll mark the season during Mass next Sunday and with a little focus for action each week in the newsletter.

Schools

September marks the beginning of a new school year. We're all very conscious of the massive task our schools have this year in trying to function safely during the current pandemic. Let's keep the children and staff in our prayers this week, especially the little ones beginning school for the first time (and their parents who may be worried about them), the older ones beginning high school or college, and Mr Christopher Perry, the new Headteacher of St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, who takes up the reins this week.

First Communions

Next Saturday, I will preside at the first of nine First Communion Masses. The Masses were supposed to be during the Easter Season but had to be delayed. Unfortunately, we can't celebrate them with the parish community on Sundays this year because there simply isn't room in church at present, and I can't invite you to join the children on Saturdays for the same reason.

But let's keep the children in our prayers as they gather around the Lord's Table and take part fully in the Mass for the first time.

Reopening St Oswald's Church

Thank you so much to the parishioners who brushed and hoovered, scrubbed and polished St Oswald's Church this week. What a difference it's made to the building after being closed since March. This week, we will train the volunteer stewards that have to be on duty when the church is open and install all the safety measures ready to reopen the church next week.

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 now open full time, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am – 5.00 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 – 12.30 pm
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THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday	10.00 am	The Parishioners
	12.00 noon	Brenda Snelson
Tuesday	11.00 am	Eric Price
Wednesday	11.00 am	Isolina Woods
Thursday	11.00 am	Josie Hackwell
Friday	11.00 am	Sam Johnson
Saturday	12.00 noon	First Communion Children
Sunday	10.00 am	The Parishioners
	12.00 noon	Peggy Waters

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 **54**, Sun 12.00 noon **24**, Tue **13**, Wed **23** & Thu **25**, Fri **20**. *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:* £30 (Anon).

ONLINE TALKS

The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst is offering a series of online talks, "Saints, Scholars and Spiritual Masters", over the next few months. Exploring some of the great figures of Western spirituality with well-known experts, the series is free to attend online. It will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursdays, beginning on 3 September and running through to 10 December. Simply register to receive a link online at:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/saints-scholars-spiritual-masters>

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS

Many thanks to those who have been able to volunteer as stewards for St Oswald's. May I invite those who are free to a training session on **Thursday 3 September** at **2.00 pm** in St Oswald's Church. I will organise a further session for those who are not able to attend this meeting.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

The annual Blessing of Animals will take place at St Benedict's on Sunday 20 September at 2.00 pm.

POPE FRANCIS

➔ If we take care of the goods that the Creator gives us, if we put what we possess in common in such a way that no one would be lacking, then we would truly inspire hope to regenerate a more healthy and equal world (26 August).

➔ God has no need to be defended by anyone and does not want His name to be used to terrorize people. We call upon everyone to stop using religions to incite hatred, violence, extremism and blind fanaticism (22 August).

➔ God does not love you because you behave well. He loves you, plain and simple. His love is unconditional; it does not depend on you (22 August).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Jeremiah 20: 7-9
	Romans 12: 1-2
	Matthew 16: 21-27
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 22
Tuesday	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
Thursday	Feast of St Gregory the Great
Sunday	23rd 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, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Thomas Ireland, Susan Keating, Peter Milner, Jean Molphy, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Ernie Roocroft, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Pembolina Smith, Brenda Snelson, Matilde Valentine, Paul Vernon, Paul Whitlow.

St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, Hilda Creagan.

St Oswald's

Catherine Carne, Peter Cox, Susan Disley, Betty Fiddler, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Mary Massey, Mike McCarrick, Jo Roberts, Margaret Watts (nee McGinty).

Other Parishes

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

Those who have died recently, especially:

Susan Greenwood

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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