

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
20 September 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

Coronavirus Pandemic

On Friday, we learnt that there will be further restrictions for Warrington from this coming Tuesday in response to the rapid rise in the number of infections recorded in the area.

A virus thrives when people gather together and when they move around. That's why lockdowns have been used throughout history to stop the spread of the virus when there is no vaccine. So the restrictions that are being placed on us are a sensible and measured response, and we should encourage each other to 'keep the rules'. Failure to do this will inevitably lead to a local or national lockdown.

At this time, places of worship have not been asked to close and so we can maintain our schedule of services for the time being with all the protocols and safeguards we have put in place. However, should this situation change, I will post details on the Parish website and in the weekly newsletter.

Blessing of Animals

I am looking forward to celebrating the annual Blessing of Animals this afternoon at St Benedict's. It will be an opportunity to thank God for our animal friends who kept us company during the lockdown, to remember our beloved pets who have died, and to pray for the many animals that suffer so much abuse and cruelty in the world.

Crisis in Yemen

This week, Sky News highlighted the situation in Yemen which is experiencing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. Years of war are leading to famine: around 2 million children are malnourished, the same

number are out of school because of the current pandemic, and over 12 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance! While various charities are on the ground trying to help, what is really needed is the help of the international community to end the conflict. At the end of the day, it's little children who are bearing the brunt of this conflict as malnutrition ravages their young bodies, or – if healthy – they are recruited as child soldiers, or are maimed by bombs, or left orphaned often looking after siblings.

While we worry about restrictions and lockdowns, the current pandemic is just adding to the misery of the people of Yemen. As a medical engineer observed, on top of the civil war, the pandemic is "going to be a really big disaster for my country. Yemen is going to be deleted from maps all over the world." We need to raise our voices for the people of Yemen.

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

Open 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.

SEASON OF CREATION

Thought for the Week

During the current pandemic, why not try to use a reusable, washable face covering rather than a disposable mask or face covering.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 20 September 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Home Mission Day</i>	10.00 am Mass The Parishioners 12.00 noon Mass Deacon Tony Kerrigan 2.00 pm Blessing of Animals	<i>The Polish Mass is being celebrated at St Stephen's at 3.30 pm</i>
Monday 21 September Feast of St Matthew, Apostle		
Tuesday 22 September		11.00 am Mass Special Intention (Holt)
Wednesday 23 September St Pius of Pietrelcina ('Padre Pio')	11.00 am Mass Special Intention (Isla)	<i>Funeral for Tony White at Walton Lea</i>
Thursday 24 September Our Lady of Walsingham	11.00 am Mass Chamberlain & Roach Families	7.00 pm Novena to Our Lady
Friday 25 September	11.00 am Mass Keith Terretta & Family	
Saturday 26 September		12.00 noon First Communion Mass 2.00 pm First Communion Mass
Sunday 27 September 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Thanksgiving for the Harvest</i>	10.00 am Mass Special Intention 12.00 noon Mass The Parishioners	<i>The Polish Mass is being celebrated at St Stephen's at 3.30 pm</i>

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

St Benedict's and St Oswald's are open for Mass. St Benedict's is also open for private prayer: Wednesday to Friday, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm.

NUMBERS AT MASS

With social distancing, we can only admit c. 60 to St Benedict's and c. 80 to St Oswald's (depending on households and 'bubbles'). To give you some idea of numbers coming to church, these are last week's numbers: Sun 10.00 am 62, Sun 12.00 noon 37, Tue 20, Wed 14 & Thu 23, Fri 16. **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

Thank you so much to those who have been able to make donations to help those who are struggling at this time. *This week: £50 (Anon), £50 (Anon).*

POPE FRANCIS

- ➔ Today, the nature that surrounds us is no longer admired, but "devoured". We must return to contemplation; so as not to be distracted by a thousand useless things, we must find silence; for the heart not to become sick, we must be still (*17 September*).
- ➔ How much suffering, how many wounds, how many wars could be avoided if forgiveness and mercy were the style of our life! (*13 September*)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Readings

Isaiah 55: 6-9; Philippians 1: 20-24, 27

Matthew 20: 1-16

Weekdays

Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 25

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's

Tricia Black, Vera Brindle, Ann Brown, Ron Clare, 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, Margaret Inkersol, 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), Joseph Webster.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Anthony Joseph White.

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.