

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



**Like Jesus Christ,
forced to flee.**

Prayer for World Day
of Migrants and
Refugees, 2020

Newsletter

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

27 September 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Today is World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees. Pope Francis has written a powerful letter to us. I will share some of it during Mass this weekend and there are copies available with the newsletter.

Hospital Chaplaincy

This week, Canon Christopher stepped down as the Catholic Chaplain to Warrington Hospital after 28 years of faithful service. He did so with a heavy heart but, at the same time, recognised it was probably the right time. I'm delighted to say that he will continue to help out at the end of the pandemic with the other priests in the Pastoral Area.

Of all the hospitals I've served as a priest, Warrington has been the most welcoming. The hospital recognises that there's a need for spiritual support and the staff always assist us in our ministry. In a large part, this is down to Canon Christopher's gentle, ever-present and supportive presence in the hospital over the years. Along with the other chaplains, he's built up the profile of the Church by being there when needed, comforting patients and staff, and supporting them in so many little ways that can feel inadequate at the time but leave a lasting impression. As a priest, you can feel pretty useless in the hospital, but perhaps we underestimate the support our presence and prayers gives to others.

My words are inadequate for the massive contribution Canon Christopher has made to the NHS over the years, but the fact that everyone I speak to in the hospital knows him and speaks fondly of him is testimony enough. On behalf of all the Catholics in Warrington, thank you so much Canon Christopher.

In the meantime, and for as long as the pandemic lasts, Fr John Schofield and I will continue to cover the hospital as best we can.

Can I also mention another presence in the hospital – Anne Donleavy from Sacred Heart. Anne is in the hospital most days – visiting patients, taking communion to them, and spending time with many – particularly those who don't have visitors. She also alerts us to those who want to see a priest and perhaps don't have family to ask for them. Anne provides a much-needed ministry in the hospital and we are so very grateful to her.

CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day

This coming Friday is CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day – one of two days in the year when we fast from a meal and give what we save in this way to the poorest of the poor. On our behalf, CAFOD works overseas in those countries that don't have good healthcare, education or even what we would consider the basic necessities. This year, the need is even greater as Covid-19 ravages these countries and adds to the misery so many of our sisters and brothers already endure. Please take an envelope home with you today and bring it back next weekend.

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 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.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
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>
Monday 28 September		
Tuesday 29 September SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael		11.00 am Mass Geraldine Ellington
Wednesday 30 September St Jerome	11.00 am Mass Ruth Hazelhurst	
Thursday 1 October St Teresa of the Child Jesus	11.00 am Mass Eric Price	7.00 pm Novena to Our Lady
Friday 2 October (CAFOD Fast Day) The Guardian Angels	11.00 am Mass Canon Francis Cookson	
Saturday 3 October		12.00 noon First Communion Mass 2.00 pm First Communion Mass
Sunday 4 October 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Rosary Sunday</i>	10.00 am Mass The Parishioners 12.00 noon Mass Private Intention	<i>The Polish Mass is being celebrated at St Stephen's at 3.30 pm</i>

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

With the rising numbers of viral infections and few people calling into church for private prayer, we'll simply open the churches for Mass for the time being.

WARRINGTON FOODBANK

Are you a confident communicator and an active listener? Can you spare 4 hours per week? If so, Warrington Foodbank would love to hear from you! They are looking for volunteers to help out in their new town centre location! For more details, check out their website <https://warrington.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer>

SEASON OF CREATION

Thought for the Week

Why not try and reduce your carbon footprint by driving less. When possible, why not walk or ride your bicycle to avoid carbon emissions completely.

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: £40 (Anon), £20 (Anon).*

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 **48**, Sun 12.00 noon **28**, Tue **28**, Wed **18** & Thu **15**, 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.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today **26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**
Readings Ezekiel 18: 25-28; Philippians 2: 1-11;
 Matthew 21: 28-32

Weekdays Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 26

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's

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 Rookcroft, 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:

Tricia Black