

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

8 November 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

Churches during the Lockdown

As you will have probably heard, the Government has asked that churches do not hold public worship during the four-week lockdown. This means that we are not able to celebrate Mass and other sacraments in church from 5 November to 2 December. However, in contrast to the lockdown earlier in the year, we are permitted to open our churches for private prayer.

Having consulted a number of those who come to Mass and secured the help of our stewards, I suggest the following schedule of private prayer beginning today, 8 November:

Day	Church	Time
Sunday	St Benedict's	10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Tuesday	St Oswald's	10.30 – 11.30 am
Wednesday	St Benedict's	10.30 – 11.30 am
Thursday	St Oswald's	10.30 – 11.30 am 7.00 – 8.00 pm
Friday	St Benedict's	10.30 – 11.30 am

When the churches are open, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament accompanied by quiet, reflective music.

I will continue to post daily prayers and reflections on the website, as well as material you can use at home on Sunday.

Call to Prayer

The bishops have asked Catholics to join in a national moment of prayer **each day at 6.00 pm**. We could do

this by praying 'The Angelus', or a decade of the Rosary, or simply by praying The Lord's Prayer.

Remembrance Sunday

Today is Remembrance Day. We remember and pray especially for all those who died in war and armed conflict. At the end of the two minutes' silence, a verse is recited which is known as 'The Ode'. The verse comes from a poem, 'For the Fallen', by the English poet and writer, Laurence Binyon. It was first published in 'The Times' newspaper on 21 September 1914. The verse has become the Ode of Remembrance and has been used on this day since 1921:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Looking after ourselves

Last Sunday, many of us felt heavy hearted at the prospect of another lockdown. In the media, a number of commentators have talked about how angry and irritable people seem to be. I'm sure this is a result of 'pandemic weariness', the prospect of another lockdown and countless other problems and worries people are experiencing just now.

A few weeks ago, I suggested five things we could do to take care of ourselves at this time. Perhaps I could repeat them:

"Let's look after ourselves, keep in touch with our loved ones, encourage each other to keep the rules because they're there for good reason, keep in touch with the Lord because we brighten his day, and let's keep a sense of humour!"

"Let's look after ourselves"

Creating a daily routine can be really helpful. As well as giving us purpose, it ensures that we do the things we need to do each day. It's good to include at least ten minutes outdoor exercise, even if that's just walking up and down the street.

"Keep in touch with our loved ones"

Perhaps make a list of family members and friends to phone, 'zoom', or send a card.

"Keep the rules"

The virus thrives on contact with others and hard surfaces. Socially distancing, being careful about touch, regular hand washing/sanitising, is the key to staying safe.

"Keep in touch with the Lord"

A few minutes each day to be quiet reminds us that our Lord is with us. He is our peace and our hope.

This time will help to calm us, keep us grounded, and afford us some perspective and wisdom.

"Keep a sense of humour"

Humour releases endorphins in our brain that give us a boost. Watch a comedy or funny YouTube video, read an amusing story or collect funny memes. Humour lightens us, builds resilience, and makes us feel better in ourselves.

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 Monday to Friday, but at the slightly shorter time of **10.00 am – 4.00 pm**. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: blessedjamesbell@rcaolp.co.uk

3) **Parish Website** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk

4) **Funerals**

Funerals will continue to be celebrated at the graveside or crematorium for now. A Memorial Mass or Service can be celebrated in church at a later date.

5) **Care of the Sick & Dying**

Fr John Schofield and I continue to cover the hospital. If you are concerned about a loved one, please ask the hospital to page us and we will attend as soon as possible. If you're worried about a loved one in a care home, please ask the care home to contact us directly.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

October 2020

Gift Aid Envelopes	£1147.40
Gift Aid Standing Orders	£454.00
Non-GA Standing Orders	£90.00
Loose	£1256.30
Total	£2947.70

Special Collection

CAFOD Fast Day	£219.00
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Thank you so much for your generosity.

PARISH CARITAS DONATIONS

Many, many thanks to those who have been able to make donations to help those who are struggling at this time. *This week:* £200 (Anon).

CATHOLIC PICTORIAL

The latest edition of the 'Catholic Pic' is available in church and online: <https://bit.ly/3oUWIPr>

POPE FRANCIS' TWITTER

➔ We pray for all the Faithful Departed and especially for the victims of the Coronavirus: for those who have died alone, without the caress of their loved ones; and for those who have given their lives serving the sick.

➔ We need to look at our cities with a contemplative gaze, a gaze of faith which sees God dwelling in homes, on the streets and squares. This presence must be found, discovered. God does not hide himself from those who seek him with a sincere heart.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Wisdom 6: 12-16 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Matthew 25: 1-13
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 32
Monday	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Tuesday	St Leo the Great
Wednesday	St Martin of Tours
Thursday	St Josaphat
Next Sunday	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>World Day of the Poor</i>

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, Margaret Inkersol, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Mary Massey, Mike McCarrick, Jo Roberts, Margaret Watts (nee McGinty), Nathan Whitlow.

Other Parishes

Alan Brompton, Catherine Donaldson, Clare Holloway, John Hughes (Vietnam), Joseph Webster, Fr Michael Youell.

Those who have died recently, especially:

John Francis Healy, Fr Des Power.

If you would like to add a parishioner to the prayer list, please check with them first and then let Fr Dave know. Many thanks.

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