

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

3rd Sunday of Advent (B)  
13 December 2020

My dear sisters and brothers,

### "Tis the season to be jolly careful!"

It was incredibly moving to see the first person in the UK receive the Pfizer vaccine last Tuesday. It was a real sign of hope that there will be an end to the Covid-19 pandemic; but we're not there yet. As the Prime Minister said recently: "Tis the season to be jolly careful!" It will take some time to roll out the vaccine and therefore some months before we can lower our guard. For now, we must continue to take great care of ourselves and each other or we risk a third wave in the New Year.

### Christmas Masses

With this in mind, we cannot celebrate the great feast of Christmas as we usually do. Normally, we would welcome over a thousand people to Mass at Christmas, but that's not possible this year. **The numbers we can safely admit are approximately 60 per Mass at St Benedict's and about 90 per Mass at St Oswald's.**

I'm sorry that there won't be a place for everyone who wants to come to Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Please remember:

- 1) The Sunday and Holyday obligation remains suspended.
- 2) You could join in Mass online or through one of the services on radio or television.
- 3) You could gather together as a family and have a short time of prayer at home.
- 4) The feast of Christmas is longer than one day! It lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on 10 January, so you could come to Mass and visit the Crib on another day during the Christmas season.
- 5) If you're worried that you've not been able to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation this year, simply take a moment to confess your sins to God and trust in his merciful love. He understands.

### Be kind

For the last few years, some of my homilies during Advent have simply been about kindness. Usually in the run up to Christmas, I witness the opposite. We can stress ourselves rushing around trying to get everything ready on top of busy lives and then find ourselves getting tired, irritable and angry. Archbishop Kelly once said: "**Jesus doesn't want his birthday to be a burden for us.**" So how can we make Christmas the opposite of a burden? If we dare to explore that question and act on what we discover, we'll begin to understand what the feast is all about.

And here's a clue. It begins with kindness. Being kind on the roads and in the shops, being kind on the phone and in person, being kind to those who are closest to us and to those we don't know... It changes us, relaxes us, refocuses us and sets us free from all the madness than can besiege us in these days.

### CAFOD Fun Run/Walk

Finally, can I remind you about our Parish CAFOD Fun Run/Walk. During Christmas week, we are invited to run, jog or walk 5km – on our own or with a friend – all at once or over a number of days – and invite people to sponsor us to help the world's poorest people. We've set up a Parish JustGiving page where people can sponsor you:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cafod-funrun-blessed-james-bell>

If you want to take part, please phone the Parish Office and your name will be added to the participant list on the JustGiving page.

With my prayers for you all,

*Fr Dave*

### General Information

1) **Fr Dave** is available by phone (01925 630127) or by email [frdave@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:blessedjamesbell@rcaolp.co.uk)

3) **Parish Website** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk)

### 4) Care of the Sick & Dying

Fr John Schofield and Fr Dave 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.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
<b>Sunday 13 December</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent (B) <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> Brian Bostock <b>12.00 noon Mass</b> (Parishioners)	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Price Family <i>Polish Mass 3.30 pm at St Stephen's</i>
<b>Monday 14 December</b> St John of the Cross		<i>Funeral Service for Gerard Harkin at Walton Lea</i>
<b>Tuesday 15 December</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Peter Dewane & Gillian Dawson
<b>Wednesday 16 December</b>	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Vera & Tino Tira Longo	
<b>Thursday 17 December</b>	<i>Funeral Service for John Black at Walton Lea</i>	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Anthony Dewane <b>7.00 pm Novena to Our Lady</b>
<b>Friday 18 December</b>	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Catherine Donaldson	
<b>Saturday 19 December</b>		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Derek Roberts
<b>Sunday 20 December</b> 4th Sunday of Advent (B) <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Parents</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> The Parishioners <b>12.00 noon Mass</b> (Clare Howley)	<i>Polish Mass 3.30 pm at St Stephen's</i>

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

#### Christmas Eve

4.30 & 6.30 pm at St Oswald's

#### Christmas Day

10.00 am & 12.00 noon at St Benedict's

At the time of writing, there are 8 places left at the 4.30 pm Mass, 6 places left at the 6.30 pm Mass, 16 places at the 10.00 am Mass and 40 places at the 12.00 noon Mass. **If you wish to reserve a place, please phone the Parish Office. It is unlikely that we will be able to admit anyone who has not booked a place.**

### SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MASSES

This week, Fr Dave will celebrate Mass in both schools as part of the children's preparations for Christmas.

### CATHOLIC PICTORIAL

The December edition of the Catholic Pictorial is now available in church or online: <https://bit.ly/3n0XQj2>

### ADVENT CARITAS COLLECTION

Thank you so much for the staggering £850 received in donations this week. It is so very kind of you, especially at this difficult time. We will use this money over Christmas to support individuals and families in the parish who are who struggling through no fault of their own.

### ST JOSEPH'S FAMILY CENTRE

The Staff and Trustees of St Joseph's Family Centre have written to wish us all the peace and hope of Christmas, and to thank us for our generous support over the past year.



### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)*

#### Today

**3rd Sunday of Advent (B)**

#### Readings

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11  
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24  
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

#### Weekdays

Advent – Week 3

### 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, Frances Fawcett.

#### *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:**

Gerard Harkin, John Black, Bernard Ball.

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