

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Christmas Eve Masses

Thursday 24 December 2020

Gathering Song

Music: Once in royal David's city

Greeting & Introduction

Fr Dave greets everyone present.

R. And with your spirit.

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Collect

Good and gracious God,
on this holy night you gave us your Son,
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes,
the Saviour of all, lying in a manger.

On this holy night
draw us into the mystery of your love.
Join our voices with the heavenly host,
that we may sing your glory on high.
Give us a place among the shepherds,
that we may find the one for whom we have waited,
Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

(Isaiah 9: 1-7)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,

the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt,
and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Carol

Angels we have heard on high

Gospel

(Luke 2: 1-14)

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to all who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Blessing of the Crib

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have shown your love.
When our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy and love.
Bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Intercessions

Let us pray that the love God shows us in the gift of his Son will bring us hope and move us to share his love with others.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.

For peace in the world, especially in the land of Christ's birth. In a special way, we remember our sisters and brothers in the parishes of Our Lady of the Rosary and St James the Less in Jordan.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.

For our families and friends, especially those we are unable to see this Christmas.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.

For those who are sick or homebound. We think particularly of those who have not been able to see their families and friends for many months.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.

For those who have died, especially Bernard Ball, John Whittaker and the many parishioners who have died from Covid-19.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.

For those we have been asked to remember in our prayers tonight, especially Philomena Maddock.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.

Now let us ask Mary, the mother of the newborn King, to pray for us all: **Hail Mary...**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: O little town of Bethlehem

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,
accept our gifts on this joyful feast.
By our communion with your Son,
may we become more like him
who joins our lives to yours,

for he is Lord for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

Holy, Holy – People's Mass (Vermulst)

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion

Music: Silent Night

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour.

May we share his life completely
by living as he has taught.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Distribution of Communion

Music: O Holy Night

Merry
Christmas
& Happy
New
year

Acknowledgements

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