

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Feast of the Holy Family (B)

27 December 2020

### Entrance Procession

*Music:* Once in royal David's city

### Greeting & Introduction

#### Litany of Praise

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary.

**R. Glory to God in the highest!**

You have made us children of the Father.

**R. Glory to God in the highest!**

You became human and shared our life.

**R. Glory to God in the highest!**

You surround us with bonds of love.

**R. Glory to God in the highest!**

You are our brother and the one who saves us.

**R. Glory to God in the highest!**

#### Collect

O God,  
you cradle us at the beginning of life  
and embrace us at our journey's end,  
for you love us as your own.  
Bind our families together  
and deepen our faith,  
that, like the Holy Family of Nazareth,  
we may grow in wisdom,  
obedient to your word.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

*(Colossians 3: 12-17)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in

kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 96

**Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all you lands.  
Sing to the Lord; bless his name.
- 2 Announce his salvation, day after day.  
Tell his glory among the nations;  
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

### Gospel Acclamation

#### Gospel

*(Luke 2: 22-40)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a

sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Pastoral Letter**

### **Bidding Prayers**

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### **Preparation of the Gifts**

*Music:* Unto us a boy is born

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Lord, accept this sacrifice  
and through the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God,  
and of her husband, Joseph,  
unite our families in peace and love.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Acclamations**

Holy, Holy – People’s Mass (Vermulst)

*The Mystery of Faith*

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

### **Communion Rite**

*Music:* In the bleak midwinter

### **Prayer after Communion**

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,  
most merciful Father,  
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,  
so that, after the trials of this world,  
we may share their company for ever.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## **Concluding Rite**

### **Blessing & Dismissal**

### **Distribution of Communion**

*Music:* Hark the herald angels sing



### **Prayer to the Holy Family**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love,  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again experience  
violence, rejection and division:  
may all who have been hurt or scandalised  
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
make us once more mindful of  
the sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God’s plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer.  
Amen.

*Pope Francis*

### **Prayer for New Year’s Eve**

Holy God,  
as we enter this New Year,  
we thank you for your presence with us  
in all the years of our lives.

We have known joy, and also sorrow,  
success and failure,  
and through it all, you have been with us  
– the companion of all our journeys.  
Much of life is fleeting  
and so we thank you for things that endure:  
the love of faithful friends,  
wisdom gained from experience,  
the reliability of nature, and your steadfast love.

We thank you for this New Year which awaits us.  
Take us by the hand and lead us on.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



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