

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**2nd Sunday after the Nativity  
3 January 2021**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### **The Feast of Christmas**

Organising the Christmas Masses was a mammoth task, not least with having to have a booking system and creating seating plans for each celebration. Thankfully, we were able to accommodate just about everyone who wanted a place and, with some not turning up at the last minute, we didn't have to turn anyone away.

Although the liturgies had to be different this year, they were still beautiful and certainly made Christmas for me. The churches looked great, the atmosphere was one of gentle joy, and it was so good to see many faces I'd not seen in a while.

Many thanks to all those who helped – our stewards for seating everyone and helping us to stay safe; Clare and Fran for providing the music on Christmas Eve; those who decorated the Christmas Trees, set up the Cribs and adorned the churches with beautiful flowers; and the teams who keep the churches looking so clean and welcoming. Thanks also to our Deacons – David, Mike and Tony – for all their support, not just over Christmas but throughout the year.

May I also thank you for your cards and gifts, prayers and good wishes. It is so very humbling to be on the receiving end of such kindness. My two feline companions, Frances and Blaise, would also like to thank you for thinking of them – their new toys have distracted them from climbing the Christmas Tree for a little while!

### **Solemnity of the Epiphany**

While the rest of the world has moved on, the feast of Christmas continues for another week – with the

Solemnity of the Epiphany on Wednesday and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord next Sunday.

This year, the Epiphany is not a holyday of obligation – the obligation to attend Mass continues to be suspended, so please join in the feast in the way that's best for you. There will be just one Mass for the Epiphany this year at 11.00 am in St Benedict's.

### **CAFOD Fun Run/Walk**

Well, we did it! Over 30 parishioners and friends completed their 5km run, jog or walk this week raising over £775 (to date) for the poorest people across the world - £200 over our target! Thank you so much to everyone who took part and to all those who sponsored them. The JustGiving page will remain open for a few weeks in case anyone else wants to donate or do 5km:

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

### **A Thought for the New Year**

Why not use the month of January to thank people you might not normally thank who have made a difference to your life during the pandemic? Choose one person a day and send them a card, or give them a call, or drop them an email. 31 Thank You's over 31 Days! It's not too late to start.

May God bless us all with his peaceful presence  
as we begin the New Year together.

*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**

*Please note:* The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday this week, **10.00 am – 4.00 pm**. Tel: 630127. Email: [blessedjamesbell@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:blessedjamesbell@rcaolp.co.uk)

3) **Parish Website** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://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 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 3 January</b> 2nd Sunday after the Nativity	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> The Parishioners <b>12.00 noon Mass</b> (Kate Rigby)	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Private Intention (Hughes)
<b>Monday 4 January</b> Weekday of Christmas Time		
<b>Tuesday 5 January</b> Weekday of Christmas Time		<b>12.15 pm Funeral Mass</b> Bernard Ball <i>(NB. You need to book to attend)</i>
<b>Wednesday 6 January</b> Solemnity of the Epiphany	<b>11.00 am Mass for the Epiphany</b> John Hughes (Vietnam)	
<b>Thursday 7 January</b> Weekday after Epiphany		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> (Thomas Bradley) <b>7.00 pm Novena to Our Lady</b>
<b>Friday 8 January</b> Weekday after Epiphany	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Gary O'Donnell	
<b>Saturday 9 January</b> Weekday after Epiphany		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Vincent Hennessey
<b>Sunday 10 January</b> Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (B) <i>The last day of Christmas</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> Frank Timoney <b>12.00 noon Mass</b> (Parishioners)	

### COVID-19 TIER 4

Although Warrington has now been placed under Tier 4 restrictions, churches have been allowed to remain open and we are able to celebrate Mass publicly because of the safety protocols we have in place. In addition, Baptisms can be celebrated but the 'Rule of 6' applies. Marriages can only be celebrated in exceptional circumstances with no more than 6 people. Funerals can be celebrated with no more than 30 people.

### DRAMA DISPLAYED: A JOURNEY OF SALVATION

A free series of online talks offered by the Christian Heritage Centre. A range of excellent speakers will examine the key moments of salvation history with the aid of great works of art. Every second Thursday, from 14 January to 25 March, at 7.30 pm. For more information and registration:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

*Happy  
New Year*

As we enter a New Year,  
may the Lord be a sure path beneath our feet,  
a bright light before us,  
a kindly shepherd with us,  
this day, and every day.  
Amen.

*Adapted from a Blessing for the Feast of Saint Columba*

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)*

**Today**                    **2nd Sunday after the Nativity**  
*Readings*                Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12  
Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18  
John 1: 1-18

**Weekdays**            Christmas Time / Epiphany

### 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).

#### *Other Parishes*

Alan Brompton, Catherine Donaldson, Clare Holloway, John Hughes (Vietnam), Joseph Webster, June Fallon.

**Those who have died recently, especially:**

Marjorie Cross, Teresa Miller, Frances Fawcett.

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