

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Day of Prayer for Racial Justice
31 January 2021

My dear sisters and brothers,

A Grim Statistic

Last Tuesday, the UK exceeded 100,000 deaths from Covid-19. Over forty of those deaths were parishioners. It's hard to compute such a statistic, but each person had a name, each person had a family and friends, each person was like you and me.

The Prime Minister has promised a national commemoration when there are signs that the pandemic is over or at least contained.

We entrust each person who has died to the embrace of God, and we do so with hope in Christ's promise of resurrection.

We pray for their families, relatives and friends who are grieving.

We think of those who weren't able to say goodbye because the risk of infection was too great.

We think of those who died without their loved ones at their side.

We think of those who couldn't have a funeral in church or in the way they wanted.

May the Lord Jesus hold them all close to his heart and bring them peace and healing.

Racial Justice

Today (Sunday) is a Day of Prayer for Racial Justice.

Last year, the brutal killing of George Floyd led to outrage across the globe. It exposed a reality most of us hoped belonged to the past. As Pope Francis said: "instances of racism continue to shame us, for they

show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think."

In recent years, Pope Francis has repeatedly used four verbs to encourage positive action in relation to migrants and refugees, '**Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate**'. These same words are essential to advancing the cause of racial justice. In the Church, we proclaim that everyone of whatever racial origin should be '**Welcomed, Protected, Promoted and Integrated**'. But, as the image at the top of this week's newsletter tells us, it is not enough simply to oppose racism. We have to act. How? In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "**we have to be the change we wish to see in the world**".

Mother Elizabeth Prout

Last weekend, the Archbishop wrote to inform us that the Holy See has declared Mother Elizabeth Prout, foundress of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, to be Venerable. This is wonderful news for the Cross and Passion family.



As many of you will know, Mother Elizabeth Prout made a significant contribution to the Church and the people of England and further afield in education and healthcare, and the Sisters of the Congregation that she founded continue to show the care of the Catholic Church for those in need. We know this first-hand here in Warrington where the Sisters of the Cross and Passion served for over a hundred years.

Mother Elizabeth Prout is buried in the Archdiocese at the Shrine at St Anne's, Sutton Manor in St Helens, and it was in the Archdiocese that her cause for sainthood was opened in 1994.

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

This week, the Parish Office will be open on Tuesday and Thursday, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

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 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.

POPE FRANCIS

→ "Let us not ignore God's word! It is a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best. In reading it, we again hear his voice, see his face and receive his Spirit" (24 January).

→ "The word of God is the antidote to our fear of having to face life. In speaking to us, the Lord reminds us that we are in his heart, that we are precious in his eyes, and that he holds us in the palm of his hand" (26 January).

→ "The words of the Sacred Scripture were not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart" (28 January).

PROFESSOR CHRIS WHITTY



I thought you might like to know a little about Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer for England, who often appears with the Prime Minister at Press Briefings during the current pandemic.

— He is a physician and epidemiologist who has dedicated his life to medical practice, research and

teaching. He is regarded as one of the leading world experts on infectious diseases.

— When he was a teenager, his father was murdered by terrorists in Athens in a case of mistaken identity.

— He has worked in various countries throughout Europe, Asia and Africa and played a leading role in the Ebola outbreak in 2014.

— Colleagues describe him as "made for the role of CMO", "an absolutely extraordinary, brilliant man" and "exactly the man we need at this time."

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) <i>Day of Prayer for Racial Justice</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35 Mark 1: 21-28
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 4
Tuesday	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Wednesday	St Blaise
Friday	St Agatha
Saturday	St Paul Miki & Companions
Next Sunday	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

FUNERALS

This week: Anthony Gibbons (Tuesday). If someone you know has died and you are unable to attend their funeral, there are resources on the Parish Website you could use for a time of prayer at home.

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, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Ernie Rookcroft, 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, Carole Hart.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Anthony Gibbons, Fr Jim Matthews, Fr Gerry Britt, Jean Molphy, Rosemary Lowe, Derek Robinson.