

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
7 February 2021**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### **Covid-19 Update**

Last Wednesday, the Chief Medical Officer said he thought we are now past the peak of the current wave. However, even though the infection rate is coming down, it is still incredibly high and could go up again quickly. So, for now, it's too early to think of relaxing the present lockdown.

The Government are hoping to reopen schools on 8 March. Depending on the rate of infection in Warrington, I hope we will be able to reopen our churches around this time too.

### **Clearing up some myths!**

On the parish website this week, I have been trying to correct some myths and misinformation about the current pandemic. As you've probably heard, some people are saying the number of deaths is no higher than usual, or that Covid-19 is no worse than flu, or that doctors are simply putting Covid-19 on death certificates to cover themselves, etc. None of these assertions are true, and you can take that from someone who sees what Covid-19 is doing on a regular basis in the hospital.

—Doctors are incredibly careful when certifying a death, and there are checks and balances in place to ensure that this is done correctly.

—In January, the Office for National Statistics said the last 12 months has seen the largest increase in excess mortality (against the five-year average) since the

Second World War – and that's not including the deaths that have occurred in December!

—As for the assertion that Covid-19 is no worse than flu, staff in our own hospital have said that they can't remember so many patients requiring oxygen for so long, or ICU being so full that it has spilled over into the operating theatres.

### **The Season of Lent**

The Season of Lent is just ten days away – Ash Wednesday is on 17 February. Unfortunately, we won't be able to mark the beginning of Lent in church this year. However, little packets of ash, together with a short prayer service that you can use at home, will be available for collection from St Benedict's on Tuesday 16 February, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm. I will also post these to those on the current mailing list. So at least we will be able to begin Lent together in spirit.

### **Thank you!**

Finally, Fr John Schofield and I would like to thank you once again for keep us both in your prayers. It is quite miraculous that neither of us have caught Covid-19 while ministering in the hospital since last March. That's got to be down to your prayers (and a little gin!). Thank you.

With my prayers,  
*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**

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](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.

**Stay Safe Be Kind**

## DAY FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

This Monday is a Day of Prayer for the Victims of Trafficking. Human trafficking now ranks as the second most profitable worldwide criminal enterprise after the illegal arms trade. The practical response of the Church is to raise awareness of this horrendous crime and to provide help and support for the most vulnerable victims.

The day of prayer falls on the feast of St Josephine Bakhita. St Josephine was from Sudan. At the age of nine, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She suffered terribly at the hands of her kidnappers so much so that she forgot her birth name. Her kidnappers gave her the name 'Bakhita' which means 'Fortunate'. She was eventually brought to Italy where she was entrusted to the care of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. It was there that she came to know and experience God's love. Josephine joined the Sisters and for the next fifty years led a life of simplicity, prayer and service. She was known for showing kindness to everyone, especially the children in the street. In her final years, she suffered from sickness and the haunting memories of the beatings and floggings she received while in slavery. She died in 1947 and was canonised in October 2000.

## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This year, the annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes will be held online. The Mass will broadcast this Thursday, 11 February, at 7.00 pm. You will be able to watch using the following Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/Archdiocese-of-Liverpool-Feast-of-Our-Lady-of-Lourdes-Mass-106532301406114> (simply click; no log-in required). If the livestream doesn't appear at 7.00 pm, just refresh the page.

## PARISH CARITAS DONATIONS

Once again, many thanks to everyone who was able to donate to our Parish Caritas Collection during Advent. The money raised enabled us to:

- support 17 individuals and families in the parish who were struggling over Christmas.
- buy Christmas presents for children whose parents had been made redundant.
- provide 15 laptops for our schools to be loaned out to children during the lockdown. The SVP were able to provide a further 5 laptops. These 20 laptops were on top of the Government's provision which was simply not enough.
- provide food and other essential items to the groups supporting the flood victims in Bewsey and Dallam.
- provide food parcels to those struggling during the current lockdown.

"When I needed a neighbour, were you there?" Yes, you were! Thank you so much.

## CATHOLIC PICTORIAL

The February edition of the 'Catholic Pic' is now available online at this address:

[https://issuu.com/merseymirror/docs/catholic\\_pic\\_february\\_2021](https://issuu.com/merseymirror/docs/catholic_pic_february_2021)

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

<b>Today</b>	<b>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Job 7: 1-4, 6-7 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23 Mark 1: 29-39
<b>Weekdays</b>	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 5
<b>Monday</b>	St Josephine Bakhita <i>Day for Victims of Trafficking</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	St Scholastica
<b>Thursday</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes <i>World Day for the Sick</i>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</b> <i>Day for the Unemployed</i>

## FUNERALS

*This week:* Rosemary Lowe (Wednesday), Jean Molphy (Thursday) and Derek Robinson (Friday). 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 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, Carole Hart, Fr Bernard Jackson, Fr Dunstan Harrington.

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

Rosemary Lowe, Jean Molphy, Derek Robinson, Lynne Williams, John McNamee, Aurora Sim, Deacon Gerald Marsh.