

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Day of Prayer for the Unemployed

14 February 2021

My dear sisters and brothers,

Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent begins this Wednesday, 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 Priory this **Tuesday, 16 February, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm**. I have also posted these to those on the current mailing list. So at least we will be able to begin Lent together in spirit.



SOME IDEAS FOR LENT

1) Prayer

If you've got out of the habit of spending a few minutes in prayer each day, why not try and get back into the habit during Lent. It can help to 'book it in', as it were. Don't bite off more than you can chew. A few minutes is enough – either to read the Gospel of the day and think about it, or simply to sit quietly... perhaps talk to the Lord in your own words, pray for someone or something you need help with, or just enjoy the silence. Prayer is simply about keeping in

touch with our Lord like we keep in touch with family and friends.

2) Fasting

Going without a meal or something we enjoy can be good for us. It makes us think of those who don't have the basic necessities in life and moves us to help where we can.

3) Almsgiving

Some opportunities to give to charity:

a) **CAFOD** – the Catholic international aid agency working to alleviate poverty and suffering in developing countries.

b) **Nugent** – a registered charity which cares, educates and protects vulnerable children, young people and adults through schools, care homes, community and social work services across the Archdiocese.

c) **Mary's Meals** provides chronically hungry children with one meal every school day, encouraging education that can lift them out of poverty in later life.

d) **Parish Caritas** – donations are used weekly to help those who are struggling in our own community.

4) Lenten Talks

There's an exciting series of talks coming up exploring the teachings of Pope Francis. Hosted by the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre, the talks will take place each Tuesday during Lent at 7.30 pm online. Go to <https://edinburghjesuitcentre.org.uk> for full details.

Tuesday 23 February

Social Justice by Austen Ivereigh

Tuesday 2 March

Refugees & Migration by Sr Imelda Poole

Tuesday 9 March

LGBTQ+ Ministry by Fr James Martin SJ

Tuesday 16 March

Church Hierarchy by Christopher Lamb

Tuesday 23 March

The Environment by Dr Lorna Gold

Tuesday 30 March

Women in the Church by Sr Gemma Simmonds

5) Looking after yourself

Many of us have found this third lockdown harder than the others. The first lockdown was new, and we went into emergency mode, as it were. The second lockdown was much shorter with an end in sight. This one is harder, and we may be struggling to do the things we need to do to stay healthy in mind and body. So 'looking after yourself' could be an area to work on during Lent. There are lots of ideas on the Parish website under 'News & Information'.

6) Prayer List

One of the best gifts we can give to another person is to pray for them. There's a prayer list at the end of the

newsletter each week. Why not cut it out and stick it on your bathroom mirror? Then, every time you look in the mirror, pick a name and simply ask our Lord to bless that person.

7) **Spiritual Reading**

The annual publications – ‘Lent Extra’ (large booklet) and ‘Walk With Me’ (small booklet) – are available from the Parish Office on request.

8) **Other Ideas**

I’ll be posting other ideas and resources on the Parish website. *Remember:* the purpose of doing something for Lent isn’t about achieving something perfectly, rather it’s about trying to become a little bit more like Jesus in our daily lives. So, if you mess up, don’t give up, simply try again or try something else.

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.

LISTENING WITH LOVE

‘Listening with Love’ is a seven-session resource inviting people to reflect on the impact of abuse on individuals and the Church. The material is designed for use in small groups, with a leader and participants. The survivors who generously offered their time to produce this resource, identified the themes and decided that, in conversations, the voice of the survivor could be heard. Therefore, using Scripture and recorded conversations each session reflects upon the impact of abuse and the journey through hurting, healing and hope. For more information:

www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/listening-with-love

Stay Safe Be Kind

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) <i>Day for the Unemployed</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11: 1 Mark 1: 40-45
Mon & Tue	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 6
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday <i>Day of Fasting & Abstinence</i>
Thu to Sat	Lent – Days after Ash Wednesday <i>Divine Office – Psalter Week 4</i>
Next Sunday	1st Sunday of Lent (B)

FUNERALS

This week: Harry Leah (Wednesday) and Lynne Williams (Thursday). If someone you know has died and you are unable to attend their funeral, there are resources on the Parish Website that 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, Fr Bernard Jackson, Fr Dunstan Harrington.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Harry Leah, Lynne Williams, John McNamee.

Thank You
to our amazing
NHS staff



Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives

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