

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

3rd Sunday of Lent (B)
7 March 2021

My dear sisters and brothers,

Reopening of Churches

I am delighted to announce that next weekend, 13/14 March, our churches will reopen for Mass.

All the protocols we had in place before the current lockdown will need to continue, i.e. offering your name and phone number on arrival for contact tracing, hand sanitising, face coverings for all those over eleven years of age (unless exempt under government guidelines), social distancing, one-way system, communion at the end of Mass, etc.

We will also continue the temporary schedule of Mass times. So next weekend's schedule will be:

Saturday	4.30 pm	Vigil Mass at St Oswald's
Sunday	10.00 am	Mass at St Benedict's
	12.00 noon	Mass at St Benedict's

At this time, baptisms and weddings are still not permitted except in case of emergency. Funerals will continue to be celebrated at the graveside or crematorium for now.

Covid-19 Update

Although there is light at the end of the tunnel with the rollout of the vaccine, **we're not there yet**. The Government asks that we continue to stay at home as much as possible, continue to observe social distancing, wear a face covering in public places and be scrupulous about hand sanitising.

It's important to remember that, even when we have been vaccinated, **it is still possible to contract Covid-19 and transmit it to others**. At this time, the vaccine stops us from getting too sick and ending up in hospital.

This week, a parishioner was admitted to hospital with Covid-19. Although she'd been vaccinated two weeks ago, **it takes at least three weeks for the body to generate enough antibodies for the vaccine to be effective**. She caught the virus from her son who had unknowingly accepted a lift from a friend who had tested positive for Covid-19 but failed to self-isolate. Her son was heartbroken when he discovered his friend was the cause of his mum ending up in hospital. The parishioner asked me to share this with you to underline the need for us all not to let our guard down just yet.

Schools

Our schools reopen fully this week. It's good that our children can return to school – it's good for them in every way. Our schools have worked extremely hard to create as safe an environment as possible for their return. I want to thank our Headteachers and the staff of our schools for the outstanding way in which they have handled everything that's been asked of them during the pandemic, often at very short notice. The current lockdown has been particularly demanding – providing for the children of key workers in school while, at the same time, educating those at home online. I'm also very aware of all the parents who've had to juggle supporting their children at home while trying to work from home at the same time. They've done an amazing job. Contrary to what we hear in the media, our children have been very blessed by all the support they've received during the lockdown.

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.

COULD YOU BE A DEACON?

During the last year, our deacons have been finding new ways to preach the Gospel, lead people in worship and serve those in need. If you would like to hear some of their stories and feel this may be your calling too, please join Archbishop Malcolm in one of two evening online meetings for men who may be wondering if they are called to serve as deacons and what the formation involves. Wives and supporting priests or deacons are also welcome: Tuesday 9 March or Thursday 11 March, 7.30 – 9.00 pm. To receive the Zoom link, please email diaconate@rcaol.org.uk

LENTEN TALKS

The series of talks exploring the teachings of Pope Francis continues this week. The talks begin at 7.30 pm and are best accessed by Facebook (*no login required*): <https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghJesuitCentre/?rf=167744546602526>

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

HOLY WEEK VOICES FROM THE HOLY LAND

Poems & Reflections for Lent and Easter

This 160 page fully illustrated book brings together poems written by a parish priest in London and reflections written by Christians in the Holy Land. The book follows Jesus in his final days leading to his Passion, Death and Resurrection, and is a practical support to Christians in the Holy Land. Soft-back and e-book versions are available at £7.99 online at www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/lenen-book or by email office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

The Annual National Novena to St Joseph begins this Wednesday, 10 March. Full details can be found at <https://millhillmissionaries.com/novena> or on the Parish Website from Wednesday.

PRAYERS FOR MYANMAR

“Sad news of bloody clashes and loss of life continue to arrive from Myanmar. I would like to draw the attention of the authorities involved to the fact that dialogue prevails over repression and harmony over discord. I also appeal to the international community to ensure that the aspirations of the people of Myanmar are not stifled by violence. May the young people of that beloved land be granted the hope of a future where hatred and injustice make way for encounter and reconciliation. Finally, I repeat the wish

I expressed a month ago: that the path towards democracy taken in recent years by Myanmar may be resumed through the concrete gesture of the release of the various political leaders imprisoned” (Pope Francis, 3 March 2021).

CATHOLIC PICTORIAL

The March edition of the Catholic Pic is now available online: <https://bit.ly/3uPeS87>

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	3rd Sunday of Lent (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Exodus 20: 1-17 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25 John 2: 13-25
Weekdays	Lent – Week 3
Saturday	Anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis (2013)
Next Sunday	4th Sunday of Lent (B) <i>Nugent Sunday</i>

SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday is the annual Day of Prayer and collection for Nugent – the social welfare agency of the Archdiocese.

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

Bernard Duffy (Tue) & Michael Seymour (Wed).

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's

Vera Brindle, Ann Brown, 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 Dunstan Harrington, Canon Bert Shaw, Redemptorist Brothers & Priests of Bishop Eton.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Michael Seymour, Bernard Duffy and Fr Peter Fox.