

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**4th Sunday of Lent (B)
14 March 2021**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Welcome back!

I am delighted that we can reopen our churches this weekend. It will be so good to see everyone again and celebrate the eucharist together.

As you arrive, you will notice that nothing has changed since we closed in January. We still need to take names for contact tracing, we are still required to sanitise our hands, wear face coverings, keep to the one-way system, sit one metre apart (unless in the same household/bubble), and so on. These protocols are still necessary to keep ourselves and each other safe. As I said last week, despite the rollout of the vaccine, we're not there yet!

A very special thanks to those who cleaned the churches during the week, and to those who continue to volunteer as stewards – their presence remains a legal requirement for our churches to open.

Covid-19 Update

Last Tuesday, the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty, and the Chief Scientist, Sir Patrick Vallance, addressed questions from MPs. The key points they made were:

- 1) If we unlock too quickly, we will get a substantial surge while a lot of people are not protected. This means a lot more people will die. "It's easy to forget how quickly things can turn bad."
- 2) Each stage of reopening carries significant risks.
- 3) The period between each step on the roadmap is necessary to analyse the impact of lockdown easing. "It takes at least three weeks, possibly four, to get the data and to analyse it properly and remembering that there is at least a 10-day lag before you even start to see cases coming through."

4) "If people think this is all over, I would encourage them to look to continental Europe" where rates are going up again.

5) The virus will surge at some point – either in the summer after the gradual easing of lockdown, or as a result of the seasonal effect, in autumn and winter.

6) The vaccination programme has been very successful and uptake is to be encouraged, but a vaccine is not "a get out of jail card" because it is not 100% effective. However, two doses offer "long-lived" protection.

7) Zero COVID is not possible. Nothing suggests this virus is going to go away soon.

Covid-19 Vaccines

I understand that some parishioners are hesitant about the vaccines. They have questions about safety and morality. NHS Warrington CCG has a particularly good 'Question & Answer' section on their website which you can find by googling "Halton Warrington Coronavirus Vaccines – Frequently Asked Questions". The Vatican has issued a "Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines" which you will find on the Parish Website. Copies are also available by the newsletters in church.

While the vaccines don't stop us from getting Covid-19, they will protect us from getting seriously ill with the virus. So, for what it's worth, taking all the information available into account, my advice is: when you're offered the vaccine – take it!

With my prayers,
Fr Dave

General Information

1) **Fr Dave** is available by phone (01925 630127) or by email fdave@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, Wednesday and Thursday, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

3) **Parish Website** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk

4) Funerals

Funerals 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
Sunday 14 March 4th Sunday of Lent (B) <i>Nugent Sunday</i>	10.00 am Mass (Private Intention) 12.00 noon Mass Gerry Sheehy	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners
Monday 15 March		
Tuesday 16 March		11.00 am Mass Alan Lloyd
Wednesday 17 March Feast of St Patrick, Patron of Ireland	11.00 am Mass Nadine Davies	
Thursday 18 March		11.00 am Mass Annie & Timothy Dewane 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 19 March Solemnity of St Joseph	11.00 am Mass Patricia Ann Hughes	
Saturday 20 March		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Marilynne Harter
Sunday 21 March 5th Sunday of Lent (B)	10.00 am Mass John & Doris Ryan, Catherine Shireby 12.00 noon Mass (The Parishioners)	

SECOND COLLECTION

Today is the annual day of prayer and collection for Nugent – the social welfare agency of the Archdiocese.

MASS INTENTIONS

During the lockdown, Fr Dave has offered Mass for the following intentions: The Parishioners (each Sunday), Colin Kinsey, Joanne Anderson, Sheila Skidmore, Private Intention, Canon Francis Cookson, Pat Collopy, Marian O'Brien, Mavis Wood, Pembolina Smith, Michael Seymour, Lynne Williams, John McNamee, Bernard Ball, Paul Jordan, Joyce Yates, Lesley Wordsworth, Andrew (freedom from addiction), Josie Marsh, John Marsh, Deacons Tony, David & Michael.

CENSUS 2021

The decennial Census is still on schedule to take place next Sunday, 21 March. Completing the Census is critical as the data is used to plan services such as community organisations, doctors' surgeries, hospitals, schools, faith, community and cultural groups and transport routes. The information is also used by charities for funding purposes. The Census will be the first done predominantly online, with households receiving a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets. Paper copies are available for those who require them. For further information, please visit: www.census.gov.uk

HOLY WEEK

We will be able to celebrate Holy Week in church this year. The liturgies will be a little different because of the safety measures we need to have in place. Full details next week.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today

4th Sunday of Lent (B)

Readings

2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23
Ephesians 2: 4-10
John 3: 14-21

Weekdays

Lent – Week 4



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 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 Dunstan Harrington, Canon Bert Shaw, Redemptorist Brothers & Priests of Bishop Eton, Fr Bernard Jackson.