

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## 4th Sunday of Lent (B)

14 March 2021

### Gathering Song

*Music:* As we gather at your table – Carl P Daw

### Greeting & Introduction

### Penitential Act

*Music:* Kyrie (Missa Bell'Amfitrit'altera – Lassus)

### Collect

O God, who through your Word  
reconcile the human race  
to yourself in a wonderful way,  
grant, we pray,  
that with prompt devotion and eager faith  
the Christian people may hasten  
toward the solemn celebrations to come.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading *(2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23)*

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 137

#### Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you!

- 1 By the streams of Babylon  
we sat and wept  
when we remembered Zion.  
On the aspens of that land  
we hung up our harps.
- 2 For there our captors asked of us  
the lyrics of our songs,  
And our despoilers urged us to be joyous:  
"Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel

*(John 3: 14-21)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes  
may have eternal life in him.  
Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.  
No one who believes in him will be condemned;  
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,  
because he has refused to believe  
in the name of God's only Son.  
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:  
that though the light has come into the world  
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light  
because their deeds were evil.  
And indeed, everybody who does wrong  
hates the light and avoids it,  
for fear his actions should be exposed;  
but the man who lives by the truth  
comes out into the light,  
so that it may be plainly seen  
that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Homily

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

### Bidding Prayers

Let us pray to the Lord.  
**R. Lord, have mercy.**

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Preparation of the Gifts

*Music:* God of mercy and compassion – E Vaughan

### Prayer over the Offerings

We place before you with joy these offerings,  
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,  
praying that we may both faithfully revere them  
and present them to you, as is fitting,  
for the salvation of all the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**

### Eucharistic Prayer

*Holy, Holy* – Community Mass (Richard Proulx)

*The Mystery of Faith*

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

### Communion Rite

*Music:* God so loved the world – J Stainer

### Prayer after Communion

O God,  
who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,  
illuminate our hearts, we pray,  
with the splendour of your grace,  
that we may always ponder  
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty  
and love you in all sincerity.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**

## Concluding Rite

### Prayer over the People

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord,  
and sustain the weak;  
give life by your unfailing light  
to those who walk in the shadow of death,  
and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil  
to reach the highest good.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**

### Blessing & Dismissal

### Distribution of Communion

*Music:* Taste and see – James Moore



**All-loving God,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for mothers, young and old.  
We pray for young mothers who give life  
and count toes and tend to our every need:  
may they be blessed with patience  
and tenderness to care for their families  
and themselves with great joy.  
We pray for our own mothers  
who have nurtured and cared for us:  
may they continue to guide us  
in strong and gentle ways.  
We remember mothers  
who are separated from their children  
because of war, poverty or conflict:  
may they feel the loving embrace of our God  
who wipes every tear away.  
We pray for women who are not mothers  
but still love and shape us  
with motherly care and compassion.  
We remember mothers, grandmothers  
and great-grandmothers  
who are no longer with us  
but who live forever in our memory  
and nourish us with their love.  
Amen.**

### Acknowledgements

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