

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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

MY LORD and MY GOD



Newsletter

**2nd Sunday of Easter (B)
11 April 2021**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Holy Week

Holy Week felt extra special this year. Even though there were restrictions on numbers as well as on what we could do, I think the fact that we could gather together made us treasure the liturgies more this year.

Thank you for coming to celebrate the Great Week – whether at home or in church – and thank you to all those who helped, especially our Deacons and volunteer stewards.

Volunteer Stewards

Our volunteer stewards have done a magnificent job for ten months now. They turn up half-an-hour before each Mass, greet people, take details for contact tracing, sanitise hands, guide us for communion, clean the benches after Mass, and keep us all safe when we gather together. Churches have been singled out for doing a great job at creating a safe environment, and this is largely down to parish volunteers up and down the country.

It is a **legal requirement** to have trained volunteers on hand in order to be able to open a church for worship, and this is likely to be the case for some time to come. Although our stewards are happy to continue, we could do with some more volunteers to be trained and to go on a 'reserve list'. We have a backlog of baptisms and weddings that will need stewards, as well as First Communion, and I hope we can start having funerals in church again from next week. We will only be able to provide all these liturgies in church if we have more volunteer stewards. So, if you think you could help by going on a reserve list, please let me know by phone or email. Thank you.

Pandemic

This last wave of the pandemic was twice as bad as the first wave last April. The hospital had over 225 patients with Covid-19 – double the number at the peak last April. Thankfully, it has quietened down during the last couple of weeks. The number of deaths is down too. Much of this is due to the rollout of the vaccine, but it's also due to the sacrifice so many people have made by keeping the lockdown.

As restrictions ease, it's important to remember that we still need to be careful: **hands, face, space and ventilate indoors**. While the vaccine is highly effective in saving lives by preventing severe illness and hospitalisation, it is not a cure – you can still catch Covid-19 and spread it to others.

Easter Cards

Many thanks to Year 6 at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School for making Easter cards and Prayer cards for some of our older parishioners and for those in hospital. The parishioners and the patients in hospital were particularly touched by the thoughtfulness of the children.

'The Darkened Room'

Finally, it's been a long haul since Christmas and I'm in need of a few days off to rest and recharge. So I'll be on 'staycation' from Monday to Friday this week. The Parish Office will also be closed so that Celia can have a break too.

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 closed.

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

4) **Funerals**

Providing we have stewards available and the rate of infection in the community remains low, funerals can now be held in church again.

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 11 April 2nd Sunday of Easter (B)	10.00 am Mass Marion Naughton 12.00 noon Mass (Parishioners)	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Mark Hastry
Monday 12 April		
Tuesday 13 April		<i>No Mass today</i>
Wednesday 14 April	<i>No Mass today</i>	
Thursday 15 April <i>Hillsborough Anniversary</i>		<i>No Mass today</i> 7.00 pm Novena
Friday 16 April	<i>No Mass today</i>	
Saturday 17 April		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Kathleen Postlethwaite
Sunday 18 April 3rd Sunday of Easter (B)	10.00 am Mass Ian Whelan 12.00 noon Mass (Parishioners)	

FR HANS KUNG

The Swiss priest and theologian, Fr Hans Kung, died this week at the age of 93. He was a hero for many of us for his intelligent theology, research and critical thinking. Sadly, his right to teach in Catholic institutions was withdrawn in 1979 because his views on contraception, the ordination of women and papal infallibility were at odds with Church teaching. However, he continued to work tirelessly and fearlessly to make the Christian faith understandable and credible. For this he will be forever remembered by many people and priests across the world. May he rest in peace.

AN EASTER THOUGHT

"The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us? When we begin to take the lowest place, to wash the feet of others, to love our brothers with that burning love, that passion, which led to the Cross, then we can truly say, 'Now I have begun'."

Dorothy Day in 'Loaves and Fishes', Orbis Books, 1997.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Archbishop will be coming to Warrington in the Autumn to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with those young people who are currently in Year 8 at High School. An invitation will be issued to young people in Year 8 at St Gregory's Catholic High School and Cardinal Newman High School in the next few weeks. However, if your child is in Year 8 at another High School and would like to be Confirmed this year, please contact Fr Dave by the end of April. Thank you.

HE IS RISEN
alleluia

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today **2nd Sunday of Easter (B)**
Readings Acts 4: 32-35
 1 John 5: 1-6
 John 20: 19-31
Weekdays Easter – Week 2

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental human rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

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, Fr Anthony Fagan.