

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

4th Sunday of Easter (B)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

25 April 2021

My dear sisters and brothers,

Remembering our Loved Ones

The picture of Queen Elizabeth sitting on her own at the funeral of her husband of 73 years touched us all. It made me think of all the people who have had to say farewell to a loved one during the pandemic without the usual customs and rituals that support us.

As you know, our own parish has been hit particularly hard during the pandemic with 62 deaths – 55 of which were due to Covid-19. In the coming months, as restrictions are eased, I hope we will be able to have Memorial Masses for all those who have died.

Last November, we planted a tree in the middle of the lawn at St Benedict's. Knowing that it has taken root, I can now announce that the tree was planted in memory of all those who have died during the pandemic. At the Memorial Masses, I hope we will be able to give each family a stone to place around the base of the tree in memory of their loved one. If it's possible, we will have the names engraved on the stones.

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today, the 4th Sunday of Easter, is known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' because we listen to the Gospel in which Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. The picture above depicts Jesus untangling a lost sheep caught up in brambles. It reminds me of something Cardinal Hume shared many years ago:

"Quite often we simply do not know how to pray, and feel that deep sense of being lost. I think it is good at

such times to see oneself rather like the lost sheep in the parable, caught in the briars, surrounded by fog, and the more you try to escape from the brambles the more you get entangled. The more you try to rush through the fog the more likely you are to get lost. When you are in that mood, wait and in your prayer imagine that sheep entangled in the briars with the fog all around. Just wait for him, Christ the shepherd, to come through the fog and disentangle you" (from 'Light in the Lord' © 1991 Cardinal Basil Hume, Pauline Books).

Good Shepherd Sunday is also the annual **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** to the priesthood, the diaconate and the religious life. The Archbishop has written a Pastoral Letter which will be read during Mass, and there will be a Second Collection as you leave for the Priests Training Fund.

Covid-19 Update

So far, the Prime Minister's roadmap out of lockdown seems to be working. I am hopeful that as long as people are sensible and the new variants are contained, we are through the worst of this. However, to a large extent this is down to all of us keeping 'the rules', as it were. When we see people flouting the rules, they are just prolonging the pandemic for the rest of us!

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

The Parish Office is now open Tuesday to Friday, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.

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

4) Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals

Funerals can now be held in church again. At this time, up to 30 people may attend a funeral. For Weddings, up to 15 people may attend; for Baptisms, only a single household may attend (Godparents are to be by proxy). The Government will review these restrictions no earlier than 17 May.

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 25 April 4th Sunday of Easter (B) <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	10.00 am Mass The Parishioners 12.00 noon Mass (Tom Webb)	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Bill & Teresa Moss
Monday 26 April		
Tuesday 27 April <i>*Attendance by booking only</i>		11.00 am Mass Bernard Ball 1.00 pm Funeral Mass * Tony Rankin
Wednesday 28 April	11.00 am Mass Catherine Eason	
Thursday 29 April St Catherine of Siena		11.00 am Mass John Myerscough 7.00 pm Novena
Friday 30 April	11.00 am Mass Ron Thompson	
Saturday 1 May St Joseph the Worker		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Ann & Hartwig Balke
Sunday 2 May 5th Sunday of Easter (B)	10.00 am Mass Isolina & Bill Woods 12.00 noon Mass (The Parishioners)	

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

As we approach the Archdiocesan Synod on 19 June, Synod Members are currently discerning how they will vote on the recommendations that have emerged. If you haven't seen the recommendations yet, copies are available as you leave church, or you can view them online at:

www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING

Following an Independent Review commissioned by the Bishops Conference last year, safeguarding in the Catholic Church in the UK is undergoing major changes. A newsletter about the progress of these changes is published every two weeks. You can read the newsletters here:

www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/safeguarding/safeguarding-implementation-elliott-review

RECRUITMENT

The Archdiocese is seeking to recruit for two new posts: Communications Manager and Director of Pastoral Development. Full details can be found under 'Jobs' on the Archdiocesan website:

www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

21 March – 18 April 2021

Gift Aid	£1207.81
Loose	£1387.98
Standing Orders	£ 735.99
Total	£3331.78

Thank you so much for your generosity.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today **4th Sunday of Easter (B)**

Readings Acts 4: 8-12
 1 John 3: 1-2
 John 10: 11-18

Weekdays Easter – 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 Anthony Fagan.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Tony Rankin, Margaret Jeffers, Penny Jude-Kelly.

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