

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



IF YOU  
ABIDE IN ME  
YOU WILL BEAR  
MUCH FRUIT

## Newsletter

5th Sunday of Easter (B)  
2 May 2021

My dear sisters and brothers,

### Covid-19 Update

At the Downing Street Covid Briefing on Wednesday, Professor Jonathan Van-Tam said that the rate of infection in the UK is now at a very low level – comparable to where we were last September. He attributed this to the efforts of us all in following the lockdown as well as to the rollout of the vaccines. However, he was also clear to point out that “we’re not there yet”. As if to underline his caution, I know of two parishioners who tested positive for the virus this week as well as some children at St Oswald’s Catholic Primary School. So we need to continue to adhere strictly to the Prime Minister’s roadmap or we risk jeopardising the further easing of restrictions in the coming weeks.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

The Archbishop is hoping to come and celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in Warrington in the Autumn. Those in Year 9 and above should have celebrated the sacrament when we combined it with First Communion. So letters of invitation will be going out to young people in Year 8 at St Gregory’s Catholic High School and Cardinal Newman Catholic High School this week. However, if there are young people in older year groups who haven’t been confirmed and would like to be, they are welcome to register online at: <https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk> Similarly, if there are parishioners in Year 8 at non-Catholic Schools, they are also invited to register online at the above address. Please spread the word!

### Face Coverings

I’ve received several appeals from wildlife organisations about masks or face coverings. Discarding masks carelessly is killing birds and other wildlife. When you discard a mask or face covering, please cut the strings to avoid an animal getting entangled and then put it in a bin. Please ask others to do the same. Many thanks.

### Caring for the Environment

The Bishops of England and Wales met last week as they usually do after Easter. One of the topics on their agenda was the various initiatives being undertaken across the country to care for the environment. Our parish submitted two brief presentations. Helen Lennon shared the story behind the themed gardens and the environment club at St Oswald’s Catholic Primary School, and I shared the progress we’ve made in regenerating the garden at St Benedict’s as a green space for the local community.

At the end of the meeting, the bishops announced that the Catholic Church is now the biggest purchaser of green energy in England and Wales! This is great news, but did you know... more than three-quarters of the gas we use is derived from a Scottish gin distillery! That made me smile!

With my prayers,  
*Fr Dave*

### General Information

- 1) **Fr Dave** is available by phone (01925 630127) or by email [frdave@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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. Many thanks.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
<b>Sunday 2 May</b> 5th Sunday of Easter (B)	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> Isolina & Bill Woods <b>12.00 noon Mass</b> (The Parishioners)	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Ann & Hartwig Balke
<b>Monday 3 May</b> Feast of SS Philip & James, Apostles		
<b>Tuesday 4 May</b> Feast of the English Martyrs		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Penny Jude-Kelly
<b>Wednesday 5 May</b>	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Syd Bradshaw	
<b>Thursday 6 May</b>		<b>10.30 – 11.30 am Holy Hour</b> <b>7.00 pm Novena</b>
<b>Friday 7 May</b> <i>*Attendance by booking only</i>	<b>10.30 am Funeral Service *</b> Margaret Jeffers	Funeral Service at Walton Lea Joan Evelyn Taylor
<b>Saturday 8 May</b> St Joseph the Worker		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Private Intention (LISC)
<b>Sunday 9 May</b> 6th Sunday of Easter (B)	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> The Parishioners <b>12.00 noon Mass</b> (Maureen Hetko)	

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confession is available on request or by appointment.

### PRIVATE PRAYER

Our churches are open 45 minutes before each Mass and for 30 minutes after each Mass. Unfortunately, St Benedict's can't be open all day at present because it is a legal requirement to have stewards on hand whenever a place of worship is open to the public.

### 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 online at:

[www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk](http://www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk)

Between now and the Synod in June, you will find reflections on the recommendations each week on the Parish website. These will also be available as a handout to take home after Mass.

### PARISH ANNIVERSARY

Yesterday (Saturday) marked the anniversary of the foundation of the Parish of Blessed James Bell. It was on 1 May 2018 that the Parish of Blessed James Bell came into being by a formal decree issued by the Archbishop. The decree merged the three former parishes of St Benedict's, St Mary's and St Oswald's into one new parish under the patronage of the Warrington martyr, James Bell. Later that year, on 26 October 2018, we had a liturgical celebration inaugurating the new parish.

*He is Risen! Alleluia!*

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Easter (B)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 9: 26-31 1 John 3: 18-24 John 15: 1-8
<b>Weekdays</b>	Easter – Week 5

### 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, Stewart Williams.

#### *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:**

Margaret Jeffers, Penny Jude-Kelly, Joan Evelyn Taylor, Glenys Jessica Horne and John McBride.