

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

Pentecost Sunday
23 May 2021

My dear sisters and brothers,

Caring for our Common Home

Today (Sunday), there is a Pastoral Letter on the Environment from the Bishops of England and Wales. We will listen to the letter during Mass, but you can also read it on the Parish website.

The earth, and all it contains, is first and foremost a gift from God to all people in every time and place. We are stewards of this gift. So, how are we looking after it? What are we handing on to our children and grandchildren?

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we have to renew our relationship with the earth and God's creatures. Each diocese in the country has begun to do this. In our own diocese, I am a member of an Environmental Group set up last summer to explore what we can do as a diocese to better care for creation and the animals God has entrusted to us. The remit of the group is far ranging – from looking at our own behaviours, to how we can make changes in our parishes and schools; from the way we use our property, to how and where we invest our money, and so on. Expect more on this in the coming months, especially during the annual Season of Creation in September

Pope Francis on Prayer

Pope Francis usually gives a talk each Wednesday at his General Audience. Last week, he was talking about the struggle of prayer. Here is an excerpt:

“Christian prayer, like all Christian life, is not a “walk in the park”. None of the great people of prayer that we meet in the Bible and in the history of the Church found prayer “comfortable”. Yes, one can pray like a parrot – blah, blah, blah, blah, blah – but this is not prayer. Prayer certainly gives great peace, but through inner struggle, sometimes difficult, which can

accompany even long periods of life. Praying is not something easy, and this is why we flee from it. Every time we want to pray, we are immediately reminded of many other activities, which at that moment seem more important and more urgent. This happens to me too: I go to pray a little ... and no, I must do this and that.... We flee from prayer; I don't know why, but that is how it is. Almost always, after putting off prayer, we realize that those things were not essential at all, and that we may have wasted time. This is how the Enemy deceives us.

“All Godly men and women report not only the joy of prayer, but also the tediousness and fatigue it can bring: at times it is a difficult struggle to keep to the time and ways of praying. Some saints continued it for years without finding any satisfaction in it, without perceiving its usefulness. Silence, prayer and concentration are difficult exercises, and sometimes human nature rebels. We would rather be anywhere else in the world, but not there, in that church pew, praying. Those who want to pray must remember that faith is not easy, and sometimes it moves forward in almost total darkness, without points of reference. There are moments in the life of faith that are dark, and therefore some saints call this “the dark night”, because we hear nothing. But I continue to pray.”

Ecumenical Pentecost Service

Usually, on Pentecost Sunday, Christians from all over the region gather in Liverpool and walk together from the Anglican Cathedral to the Catholic Cathedral. It's a great walk of witness and an opportunity for Christians of all denominations to pray together. This year, in place of the walk, there will be an Ecumenical Service at 3.00 pm in the Anglican Cathedral which will be livestreamed on both cathedrals YouTube channels.

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** is open at the moment from Tuesday to Friday, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.
- 3) **Parish Website** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk
- 4) **Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals**
Up to 50 people can now attend a Funeral at St Benedict's and up to 80 people can attend a Funeral at St Oswald's. Up to 30 people can attend a Baptism or Wedding.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 23 May Pentecost Sunday (B)	10.00 am Mass The Parishioners 12.00 noon Mass (Brian Hughes)	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Patrick Naughton
Monday 24 May Our Lady, Mother of the Church		
Tuesday 25 May St Bede the Venerable		11.00 am Mass Thanksgiving (Barnes/Skelton)
Wednesday 26 May St Philip Neri	11.00 am Mass Anthony Gibbons	
Thursday 27 May Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest		11.00 am Mass Ashbrook Family 7.00 pm Novena
Friday 28 May	No Mass today <i>(Mass at St Gregory's High School)</i>	
Saturday 29 May St Paul VI, Pope		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Penny Jude-Kelly
Sunday 30 May The Most Holy Trinity (B)	10.00 am Mass The Parishioners 12.00 noon Mass (Brian Astbury)	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confession is available on request or by appointment.

GARDEN GATE BUDDY

Do you enjoy meeting new people and having a chat? Could you spare a maximum of one hour per week? If so, perhaps you would like to become a 'garden gate buddy' with Good Neighbours. A garden gate buddy is a befriender who visits someone in their garden for a weekly chat (weather dependent). Good Neighbours provide support to members of our community who are lonely and isolated and in need of some friendly contact or low-level support with one-off tasks. Google 'Good Neighbours Warrington' for more information.

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion will be celebrated in September this year. If your child is in Y4 at a non-Catholic school and would like to celebrate First Communion, please contact Fr Dave as soon as possible. Many thanks.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Young people in Year 8 who wish to be confirmed in the Autumn are invited to register online at: <https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk> If there are young people in older year groups who haven't been confirmed and would like to be, they are also welcome to register.

MAY PROCESSIONS

Our schools will be holding their annual May Processions this week. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, they are unable to welcome parents and parishioners to join the children this year. However, recordings of the processions will be posted on the school websites.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today

Readings

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2: 1-11

1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13

John 20: 19-23

Weekdays

Ordinary Time – Week 8

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, Stuart 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, Mark Van Schoor, Margaret Watts (nee McGinty).

Other Parishes

Alan Brompton, Catherine Donaldson, Clare Holloway, John Hughes (Vietnam), June Fallon, Carole Hart, Fr Anthony Fagan, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park).

Those who have died recently, especially:

Patricia Rourke.