

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
1 August 2021

STATEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND

On 19 July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the Covid-19 virus transmission were rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there is an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement "The pandemic is not over." Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales is adopting a **cautious approach to capacity and activity** within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is **not possible at the present time** for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021.

In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the

Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: "The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives."

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of 'The Day of the Lord'.

The Bishops' Reflection, 'The Day of the Lord', is available on the parish website, and there will be copies available in church next weekend.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Fr Dave writes: As I mentioned at Mass last weekend, one of my chief concerns during the current pandemic has been those parishioners who are sick and/or homebound. Most of them have not been able to have visits or receive communion in over a year!

During August, I hope to visit as many as I can as well as celebrating Mass in Care and Residential Homes where possible. However, I need help to do this as we have over ninety parishioners that I know of who are homebound.

If you feel you could help, please let me know. Your safety and that of those you visit is paramount. So, it will be advisable to take a lateral flow test before you visit, to wear PPE, and to do things a little differently as we have been doing in church for the last twelve months. Deacon Tony and I are well rehearsed in these procedures and are happy to support you.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Even after getting vaccinated, keep taking precautions to protect yourself, family and friends

Why?

The COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective, but a small percentage of people will still get ill from COVID-19 after vaccination. You could also pass the virus on to others who are not vaccinated. Everyone should continue to distance, wear a mask, clean hands frequently, cover a cough or sneeze and avoid poorly ventilated areas.

