

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
22 August 2021

My dear sisters and brothers,

### How are you?

I think a lot of us are feeling fed up at the moment... fed up with the pandemic, fed up with all the bad news in the media, and fed up with people moaning!

When the pandemic hit the UK and we entered into a strict lockdown, most people coped very well. It was an emergency situation and we rose to the occasion. But as the months have gone on and we've continued to do our bit, there still seems to be no end in sight. So it's not surprising that we're all feeling a bit fed up.

I don't think the situation is helped by the Government's change of approach in dealing with the virus. It seems to have led to a widespread presumption that the pandemic is over. Consequently, many people are no longer taking precautions to prevent the spread of the virus, the rate of infection remains high, and churches are coming under increasing pressure to return to normality.

The **reality** is the rate of infection is much higher than it was this time last year. The **reality** is the vaccine is not 100% effective – while it does prevent hospitalisation for most people, those who are vaccinated can still catch the virus and transmit it to others. The **reality** is the virus does affect children and young people – normally this is not severe, but that's true in every case.

The present Delta variant is as transmissible as chicken pox! That's why most churches are continuing to exercise caution and maintain the protocols we have in place to help to reduce the transmission of the virus. We recognise that we have a duty of care to those who gather in our churches and that means doing all we can to keep people safe. So, until the rate of infection

comes down to a safe level, I don't see that we can go back to 'normal', as it were.

### Afghanistan, Haiti & Africa

The situation in Afghanistan is extremely worrying. CAFOD has been in touch to let us know that they are working to ensure the safety of their local partners and communities. In Haiti, CAFOD is working with local Church organisations to deliver emergency aid to those affected by the recent catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. CAFOD is also supporting local aid workers in delivering urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria.

You can read more about how CAFOD is supporting our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies here: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>

### And finally...

While visiting in the hospital this week, a lady in one of the wards suddenly shouted: "Oh, that's the priest in the blue boxer shorts!" Suddenly, I was taken back to the first day of the first lockdown last year...

I had been called to someone who was dying in one of the local care homes. When I got there, the staff weren't too sure of the new Covid protocols, so they asked me to take my clothes off and put on a surgical gown. As I walked down the corridor, all the ladies sat outside their rooms began to roar with laughter. The nurse accompanying me said, "You've just made their day!" "And how have I done that?" I asked. "The surgical gown you're wearing is see-through!"

Have a good week!

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) The **Parish Office** is open Tuesday to Friday this week, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm.
- 3) **Parish Website** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk)
- 4) **Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals**  
Up to 50 people can attend a Baptism, Wedding or Funeral at St Benedict's and St Oswald's for now
- 5) **Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Confession is available on request or by appointment.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
<b>Sunday 22 August</b> 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> The Parishioners <b>12.00 noon Mass</b> Jason Flint	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Mary Robinson <b>10.30 am at Ryfields Village</b> Service of Word & Communion
<b>Monday 23 August</b>		
<b>Tuesday 24 August</b> Feast of St Bartholomew, Apostle		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Bernard Ball
<b>Wednesday 25 August</b>	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Brenda Snelson	
<b>Thursday 26 August</b> Blessed Dominic Barberi	<b>10.15 am Funeral Service</b> Marion Manfredi	
<b>Friday 27 August</b> St Monica	<b>No 11.00 am Mass</b> <i>(Mass at a Local Care Home)</i>	
<b>Saturday 28 August</b> St Augustine		<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Penny Jude-Kelly
<b>Sunday 29 August</b> 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> The Parishioners <b>12.00 noon Mass</b> (Fr Anthony Fagan)	<b>10.30 am at Ryfields Village</b> Service of Word & Communion

### COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT

It's important to remember two things. First, even if you have received two jabs, you can still catch Covid-19 and transmit it to others. However, the vaccine should prevent you becoming seriously ill. Secondly, the Delta variant is presenting different symptoms. The top five symptoms reported are: (1) Headache, (2) Sore Throat, (3) Runny Nose, (4) Fever, (5) Cough.

### ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

Annual Pilgrimage Mass to the Holy Hand of St Edmund Arrowsmith next Sunday, 29 August, at 3.00 pm in the Church of St Oswald & St Edmund Arrowsmith, Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield WN4 9NP. All welcome.

### COLLECTIONS – JULY 2021

#### Offertory Collection

Offertories	£2319.21	<i>£950.00 Gift Aid</i>
Standing Orders	£656.87	<i>£489.00 Gift Aid</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2976.08</b>	<i>£1439.00 Gift Aid</i>

#### Second Collections

Sea Sunday	£168.65
Priests in Retirement	£292.00
Parish Caritas Donations	£130.00

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

### POPE FRANCIS

“Vaccination is a simple way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable” (18 August).

“There is no better way to pray than to place oneself like Mary in an attitude of openness, with a heart open to God: ‘Lord, what you want, when you want, and how you want’ (14 August).

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)*

**Today**                    **21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

*Readings*                Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18  
Ephesians 5: 21-32  
John 6: 60-69

**Weekdays**            Ordinary Time – Week 21

### LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

**Those who are sick or homebound, especially:**

*St Benedict's &*

Vera Brindle, Ann Brown, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Thomas Ireland, Susan Keating, Peter Milner, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Ernie Rookcroft, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Pembolina Smith, Brenda Snelson, Matilde Valentine, Paul Vernon, Stephen Whitlow, Stuart Williams.

*St Mary's*

Luciano Bartolo, Hilda Creagan.

*St Oswald's*

Keith Bate, Catherine Carne, Peter Cox, Susan Disley, Betty Fiddler, Margaret Inkersol, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Mary Massey, Mike McCarrick, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Margaret Watts.

*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:**

Marion Manfredi and Gerald Dooley.

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