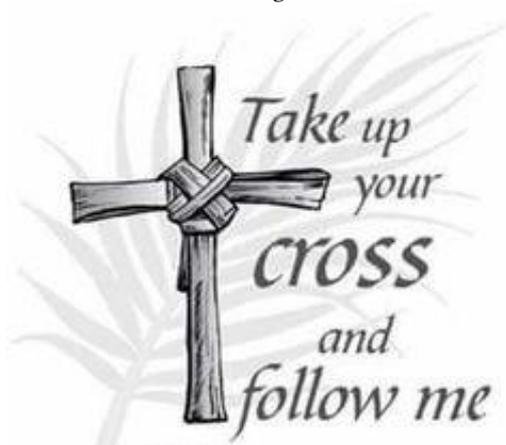


# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
12 September 2021**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### Education Sunday

Today is Education Sunday. Bishop Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds and Chair of the Catholic Education Service, writes: "Over the last eighteen months we have seen an upheaval affecting everyone in our society, the like of which has not been witnessed since the end of the Second World War. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed not only aspects of how we live our lives but has given us a chance to reflect on the fragility and preciousness of human life, on human solidarity, and the capacity to show love and support to our neighbours.

"Like many other front-line workers, teachers, school leaders, and support staff have exemplified this love throughout the pandemic, going above and beyond to support the young people in their care. It is only right therefore that on Education Sunday, we take this opportunity to offer prayers of thanksgiving for all who work in our Catholic schools and colleges, and to express our gratitude for their outstanding dedication and professionalism, especially during the pandemic.

"Throughout the challenges they have faced in two national lockdowns, two sets of exam cohorts, and a managed return to schooling, the staff of all our schools have exemplified what it means to follow the command of Our Lord Jesus Christ to love our neighbour. On behalf of the Catholic Education Service, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to them and my appreciation for the vocation and mission they exercise in the community of the Church."

### UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)

As you may know, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021. 'COP' means 'conference of parties'. Leaders from 197 countries, including Pope Francis, who have signed up to the UN's climate change treaty, will travel to Glasgow to take part in the conference. This will be the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil.

The focus of the conference will be how to keep temperature rises below 1.5C. If the world warms more than this threshold, millions more people in the most vulnerable communities around the globe will suffer from devastating droughts, storms, floods and other impacts of climate change. Governments will be obliged to set out more ambitious goals for ending their contribution to climate change under the Paris Agreement (2015).

CAFOD invite us to sign a petition urging the Prime Minister to make sure the communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. You can sign the petition online here: <https://e-activist.com/page/73304/petition/1>

### Changes to Covid-19 Protocols

Having taken advice, we will make the following changes to our protocols in the coming weeks:

- 1) **Face coverings** will continue to be required for Mass. These need to cover both nose and mouth.
- 2) **Contact tracing** will continue but by using the QR codes posted at the entrance of the church.
- 3) **Sanitising** hands will also need to continue.
- 4) **Social distancing**: The tape will be removed from the benches, but you will be requested to leave a space between the people either side of you (unless they are in the same household) and not sit directly in front of the person behind you or behind the person directly in front of you.
- 5) **Communion** will be brought back to its usual place in the Mass, but stewards will guide you forward a bench at a time to ensure social distancing.
- 6) **Leaving church** will also continue a bench at a time for now to ensure social distancing.

### Weekend Mass Times

The old schedule of weekend Mass times will resume on **2/3 October** with one change – the Saturday Vigil Mass will continue at 4.30 pm for the time being. So, weekend Mass times will be:

|                 |                 |                                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>4.30 pm</b>  | <b>Vigil Mass at St Oswald's</b> |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>8.30 am</b>  | <b>Mass at St Oswald's</b>       |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>10.30 am</b> | <b>Mass at St Benedict's</b>     |

God bless you,  
*Fr Dave*

