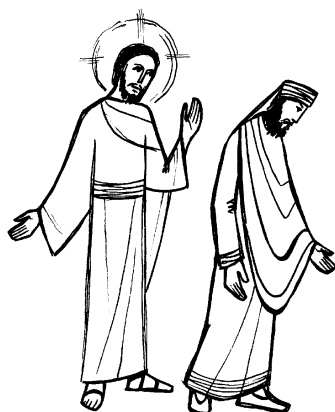


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
10 October 2021**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Covid-19 Update

Last weekend, we returned to our old schedule of weekend Mass times. The schedule, together with the new Covid-19 protocols, seemed to go quite well. The 10.30 am Mass at St Benedict's had the largest congregation of 108. While this is still smaller than it was before the pandemic, if it gets much larger, social distancing could become difficult. If this happens, we will need to revert to two morning Masses at St Benedict's until social distancing is no longer necessary. The 4.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at St Oswald's totalled 73 which is about same number that attended before the pandemic; the 8.30 am Mass was just 27 – about a third of what it used to be. We'll carry on for a few weeks and see how it goes.

It's disappointing that the Government doesn't seem to be concerned about the high rate of infection in the country. The figures recorded are averaging at 35,000 new infections a day. This total is likely to be lower than the real number because the Government have still failed to inform the country about the different symptoms associated with the Delta variant. The top five symptoms reported are like a cold: (1) Runny nose, (2) Headache, (3) Sneezing, (4) Sore throat, (5) Loss of smell.

In Europe, countries have opened up like the UK, but three mitigations have remained in place – face coverings, social distancing, and vaccine passports. Consequently, the rate of infection, together with the number of hospitalisations and deaths, is massively smaller than in our own country.

Sacrament of Confirmation

This weekend, we welcome Archbishop Malcolm who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for young people across the Deanery. Let's keep the young people in our prayers. As I said last week, I think it's a lot harder for them to stand up for their faith in today's society than perhaps it was for most of us when we were their age.

Church reopens during the day

I know that a lot of people have missed being able to call into church to pray during the day over the last eighteen months. So I'm delighted to announce that St Benedict's Church will reopen this Tuesday for daily prayer: Monday to Friday, 9.30 am – 3.00 pm.

Martha and Mary

The Gospel for Mass last Tuesday was the well-known story of Martha and Mary. The passage has suffered much misinterpretation over the centuries so that today's Martha's might feel less than Mary, and Mary might be seen as the 'goody goody'. But think on this: if it wasn't for Martha, Jesus wouldn't have got a meal!

As I ponder the story, I think of all the Martha's in our lives who shop and cook and clean for us. Where would we be without them? They make such a difference to our lives. Then I think of Mary and remember there's something else we need in our lives too: simply to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to him. How often do we do that? Perhaps go in your imagination to the home of Martha and Mary sometime and picture yourself simply sitting at the feet of Jesus like Mary. It's a powerful prayer.

God bless you,

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) The **Parish Office** is open Monday to Friday, 9.00 am – 5.00 pm. The Parish Office email address is: blessedjamesbell@rcaolp.co.uk
- 3) **Parish Website** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk
- 4) **Sacrament of Reconciliation**
Confession is available on request or by appointment.
- 5) **Piety Stall** – open after each Mass at St Benedict's.
- 6) **Ryfields Village** – There is a Service of the Word & Communion every Sunday at 10.30 am.

