

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**2nd Sunday after the Nativity  
2 January 2022**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### The Feast of Christmas

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Although our celebrations had to be different again this year, they were still beautiful and joyful.

I am very grateful to all those who helped: our stewards for helping us to gather safely; Clare and Fran for providing the music on Christmas Eve; those who decorated the Christmas Trees, set up the Cribs and adorned the churches with beautiful flowers; and the teams who keep the churches looking so clean and welcoming. Thanks also to Deacons Tony, David and Mike for all their support, not just over Christmas but throughout the year.

May I also thank you for your cards and gifts, prayers and good wishes. It is so very humbling to be on the receiving end of such kindness. My two cats, Frances and Blaise, would also like to thank you for thinking of them – their new toys have distracted them from climbing the Christmas Tree in church for a while!

### Volunteer Stewards

I would like to say a very special thanks to our volunteer stewards who have made themselves available over the last eighteen months for every liturgy we've celebrated in church. Without them, it really would have been impossible for us to gather safely, and we wouldn't have been able to reopen our churches after the first lockdown.

It has not always been easy for the volunteers. Sometimes those who rarely come to church have been aggressive and unreasonable when asked to follow the protocols we have in place (e.g. wearing a face

covering or mask). I know that many shops and businesses have experienced the same. This kind of behaviour has increased since the Government removed most mitigations last July.

However, churches are private property. We undertake our own risk assessments and draw up our own protocols out of a duty of care to those who gather in our buildings – and we have the right to insist that these protocols are followed. We will continue to do so for as long as we judge it to be necessary in the current pandemic.

### Solemnity of the Epiphany

While the rest of the world moves on, the feast of Christmas continues for another week – with the Solemnity of the Epiphany on Thursday and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord next Sunday (the last day of Christmas).

This year, the Epiphany is not a holyday of obligation – the obligation to attend Mass continues to be suspended, so please join in the feast in the way that's best for you. There will be just one Mass for the Epiphany this year at 11.00 am in St Benedict's.

### And he's off!

I've not had a break since last July and I know I'm very tired. So I'm going to take this week off and have a 'staycation'. Fr Austin and Fr Raymond have offered to cover the Masses next weekend, so I'll be back in the saddle, as they say, on Tuesday 11 January.

May God bless us all with his peaceful presence  
as we begin the New Year together.

*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) **Parish Office** – The Parish Office will be closed this week to give Celia a break as well.
- 3) **Parish Website** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk)
- 4) **St Benedict's Church** will be closed this week except for Mass on Thursday and Sunday.
- 5) **Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Confession is available on request or by appointment.
- 6) **Communion at Home** – If you are not able to come to Mass and would like to receive communion at home, please phone the Parish Office (630127).

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
<b>Sunday 2 January</b> 2nd Sunday after Christmas	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Kate Rigby	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Peter, Jo, Geraldine & Barbara Ellington <b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners
<b>Monday 3 January</b> Weekday of Christmas Time		<i>No Prayer Group</i>
<b>Tuesday 4 January</b> Weekday of Christmas Time		<i>No Mass today</i>
<b>Wednesday 5 January</b> Weekday of Christmas Time	<i>No Mass today</i>	
<b>Thursday 6 January</b> Solemnity of the Epiphany	<b>11.00 am Mass for the Epiphany</b> The Parishioners	<i>No Novena today</i>
<b>Friday 7 January</b> Weekday after Epiphany	<i>No Mass today</i>	
<b>Saturday 8 January</b> Weekday after Epiphany		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Thomas Bradley
<b>Sunday 9 January</b> Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (C)	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Gary O'Donnell	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

### AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL

Inevitably, once the troops pulled out of Afghanistan in August, ordinary men, women and children were going to suffer. To date – 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, a collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict and Covid! CAFOD is supporting local agencies to reach those most in need of food, clean water and fuel. If you can help, please donate online to CAFOD's Afghanistan Appeal: [www.cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](http://www.cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal)

### FR RAYMOND ANYANWU CSSp

Some parishioners have asked how they can contact our new Deanery Assistant Priest, Fr Raymond Anyanwu CSSp. Fr Raymond is living at Sacred Heart Presbytery on Liverpool Road, Warrington WA5 1AE. His telephone number is (01925) 631086.

### THE BLESSING OF HOMES

The Blessing of Homes is a time-honoured custom on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. It reminds us that Christ is with us in the love and care we show one another in our ordinary everyday lives together. Why not have a little celebration at home this Thursday? One custom is to trace the Cross together with the initials "CMB" and the numerals of the year on the doorway of your house (using chalk, holy water, or simply with your finger), and then share your usual family meal together. "CMB" stands for "Christus mansionem benedicat" – "May Christ bless this house!" It also represents the names given to the wise men – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. So the blessing for 2022 would look like this:

**20 + C + M + B + 22**

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)*

**Today**                    **2nd Sunday after the Nativity**  
*Readings*                Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12  
                                  Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18  
                                  John 1: 1-18

**Weekdays**            Christmas Time / Epiphany

### LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

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

*St Benedict's*

Vera Brindle, Carol Feeney, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Thomas Ireland, Susan Keating, Peter Milner, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Ernie Roocroft, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Paul Vernon, Stuart Williams, Dolores Woodall.

*St Mary's*

Luciano Bartolo, Hilda Creagan, Trina and Geoff Mouldsdale.

*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, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts.

*Other Parishes*

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

**Those who have died recently, especially:**

Melanie Pollitt, Angela Ryan.

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