

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (C)
9 January 2022

My dear sisters and brothers,

Welcome

A very warm welcome and many thanks to Fr Austin and Fr Raymond who will be presiding at the Masses this weekend while I have a week off. I'll be back in the saddle, as they say, on Tuesday.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Today, on this last day of Christmas, we recall the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. I'm reminded of these words by Howard Thurman:

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among peoples,
to make music in the heart.**

Peace Sunday

Next Sunday, 16 January, the Bishops of England and Wales invite us to observe a Day of Prayer for World Peace, using the theme proposed by Pope Francis: 'Education, Work and Dialogue between Generations: Tools for Building Lasting Peace'. In preparation for this important day, we might ponder once more the prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Covid-19

Given the massive spread of the Omicron variant in the UK and the uncertainty surrounding the variant, I have reintroduced some social distancing on one side of the church for those who feel safer with this provision. It is likely that I will reintroduce other measures during the week so that we can continue to gather safely in church.

Many of us are feeling quite worn down by the pandemic and frustrated by the government's present approach to new variants. If we want the pandemic to end and get back to some kind of normality, the scientists tell us that we won't achieve this by ignoring the high infection rate and putting all our apples in one basket, i.e. vaccination. This week, the Director-General of the World Health Organisation, advised: "It's not vaccines instead of masks, it's not vaccines instead of distancing, it's not vaccines instead of ventilation or hand hygiene. Do it all. Do it consistently. Do it well." In addition, he said we need to help every other country in the world to vaccinate at least 70% of their citizens. This seems to be an eminently sensible approach to me.

With my prayers,
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) **Parish Website** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk
- 3) **St Benedict's Church** is open for private prayer, Monday to Friday, 9.30 am – 3.00 pm.
- 4) **Sacrament of Reconciliation**
Confession is available on request or by appointment.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 9 January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (C) <i>The last day of Christmas</i>	10.30 am Mass Gary O'Donnell	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Thomas Bradley 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 10 January		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 11 January		11.00 am Mass Private Intention (LISC)
Wednesday 12 January	10.15 am Funeral Mass Melanie Pollitt	
Thursday 13 January		11.00 am Mass Mary Robinson 7.00 pm Novena
Friday 14 January St Kentigern <i>Patron of the Archdiocese</i>	11.00 am Mass Patsy Timoney	
Saturday 15 January		4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners
Sunday 16 January 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) <i>Peace Sunday</i>	10.30 am Baptism Mass The Berry Family	8.30 am Mass Alan Williams

LISTENING TO THE MARGINS FOR HOPE

Saturday 15 January, 1.30 – 4.30 pm, an online event celebrating the contribution of three remarkable priests – Fr Tom Cullinan, Fr Kevin Kelly and Fr Austin Smith – to the Church. To register to receive the Zoom link, please email:

prophets.disciples.teachers@gmail.com

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION

The J&P Commission is delighted to announce that Dr Lorna Gold will be joining us on Zoom for what promises to be a very relevant and timely talk looking at the environment in relation to Synodality next Sunday, 16 January, 2.00 – 4.00 pm. To register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMuf-mvrzWuG9PD06lFRwfu8PF66XLA4B8d>

UNIVERSAL SYNOD 2023

Archbishop Malcolm is calling us to take part in the listening phase of the Universal Synod on Synodality which Pope Francis has invited the whole Church to join. Although we have already engaged with the synodal process in the Archdiocese as part of Synod 2020, we may find ourselves in a different place on our journey. This may include fresh insights, which will be submitted to the Bishops' Conference together with the summary of the listening phases of Synod 2020.

To participate in this world-wide listening process, you can access and download the discussion questions from Monday 10 January, as well as submit your responses online at:

www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/synod2023

The deadline for submissions is 10 March 2022. For queries, please email: vaticansynod@rcaol.org.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today

Readings

The Baptism of the Lord (C)

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7

Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Weekdays

Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 1

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, Michael O'Donnell.

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