

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sunday of the Word of God

23 January 2022

My dear sisters and brothers,

Covid-19 Pandemic

I was completely stunned by the statements from the Prime Minister, Health Secretary and Education Secretary on Wednesday praising the UK's handling of the pandemic and removing almost all the protections in place to help prevent the spread of the virus. Not only were the statements at odds with the data, but they effectively put a large percentage of the population at risk.

The children, young people and staff in our schools are struggling because the Government has not insisted on mitigations to prevent the spread of an airborne virus, nor given schools the resources they need to create safe environments. We all want our children and young people in school, but many are getting sick and having to stay at home. It is the failure of Government that is disrupting education.

To say we must "learn to live with virus" does not mean abandoning common sense. "Living with the virus" means taking the appropriate precautions so that we can go about our daily lives and do so safely. The media are fond of interviewing those who say, "We all have to make our own choices and take risks." The problem with this approach is that our individual choices impact others. For example, those who are vulnerable are having to withdraw from society again to avoid getting sick. What about their freedoms?

To think vaccination is the sole way out of the pandemic is naïve. In addition to vaccination, we need to accept how the virus works and do what we can to lower the spread (i.e. wearing masks where appropriate, hand sanitising, social distancing,

ventilation, etc). It's not rocket science nor do these mitigations restrict 'freedom'.

We're all tired and fed up of the pandemic, but pretending that it's over will just keep it going and allow for new variants. This is not the time to give up. Contrary to popular opinion, Covid-19 is not like a cold or flu. It is frequently not mild or harmless, and we do not know the long-term effects of the virus on the body.

For now, we will continue with the protocols we have in place in our churches until it is safe to moderate them and eventually remove them. I have no doubt that this is the responsible thing to do for the safety of us all.

Sunday of the Word of God

In 2019, Pope Francis set aside the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as 'Sunday of the Word of God'. He did so to remind us of the importance of reading and listening to the Scriptures. If you have a Bible at home, or a missal which contains the Scripture Readings at Mass, why not pray this simple blessing today:

**God our Father,
your Son proclaimed
the good news of salvation.
Bless me as I read from these sacred texts.
As I read, listen and reflect
on your words of life,
strengthen my faith
so that what I read in hope,
I may live in love and charity.**

There are lots of excellent resources about the Scriptures here: www.godwhospeaks.uk

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) 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) **St Benedict's Church** is open for private prayer: Monday to Friday, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 23 January 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	10.30 am Mass Josie Hackwell	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Jack Whittaker 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 24 January St Francis de Sales		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 25 January Feast of the Conversion of St Paul		11.00 am Mass Frances Fawcett
Wednesday 26 January Saints Timothy & Titus	11.00 am Mass Brenda Snelson	
Thursday 27 January <i>Holocaust Memorial Day</i>		11.00 am Mass Bernie O'Connor 7.00 pm Novena
Friday 28 January St Thomas Aquinas	11.00 am Mass Pat Gibbons & Family	
Saturday 29 January		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Bill Jarvis
Sunday 30 January 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	10.30 am Mass Josie Gately	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

CONFIRMATIONS 2022

If you are in Year 8 and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, please visit the website www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk and click 'Register for Confirmation' at the top right-hand side of the page. Registration is open until 21 March 2022. Information about the preparation scheme can also be found on the Liverpool Called website.

NEW LEAF

Do you need support with any of the following: Money advice, Filling in forms, Health and Wellbeing support, Job search, New or improved skills, IT Training, then pick up a leaflet as you leave church or go to: <https://newleafcheshire.co.uk>

VACANCIES

- 1) The Archdiocese is seeking to recruit an Administrator for its new Pastoral Development Department, and also Parish Administrators for Seaforth and Standish. See under 'Jobs' on the website: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk
- 2) CAFOD is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to deliver assemblies and workshops about its work. No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided. If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with Siobhan sfarnell@cafod.org.uk (07779 804241).
- 3) Third Sector Jobs: www.warringtonva.org.uk

NEW WEBSITE

There's a new website exploring the life and work of the late Fr Kevin Kelly, Fr Tom Cullinan and Fr Austin Smith: www.fr-tom-cullinan.co.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)**
Readings Nehemiah 8: 2-4, 5-6, 8-10
 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30
 Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21
Weekdays Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 3

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 Mouldsdales.

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:

Bill Jarvis, Ethel Moffatt.