PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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

Newsletter

4th Sunday of Lent (C)
27 March 2022

My dear sisters and brothers,

War in Ukraine
Thank you so much to all those who have dropped off items for the people of Ukraine. The Archdiocese has been inundated by donations so much so that we must pause the collection for the time being.

You can still donate financially as advised in last week's Newsletter. Details can also be found on the parish website, or you can hand in donations to church and we will forward them on your behalf.

Covid-19
Last Wednesday, 23 March, was the second anniversary of the first lockdown in the UK. Two years on, we're still struggling with the pandemic even though it's almost disappeared from the media.

At present, the number of daily infections has never been higher. Fortunately, most people are not getting too ill because of vaccination. Although the number of older people being admitted to hospital is rising, deaths are not high because so much more is now known about how to treat the virus. Still, Covid-19 is not like a cold or flu even though it manifests itself in a similar way. Covid-19 can affect other organs in the body and exasperate comorbidities, so we should continue to take care to avoid catching the virus and passing it on to others. This is why we are continuing with our safety protocols in church, even though many other places have abandoned them.

I know that we're all tired of the pandemic, but ignoring it simply keeps it going. So, the phrase "learning to live with Covid" cannot mean ignoring it, rather it must mean trying to go back to our normal way of life while taking sensible precautions.

Penance Service
Usually, we gather before Christmas and Easter for a Service of Reconciliation (or Penance Service). During the pandemic, I've incorporated this celebration into Sunday Mass because our usual evening celebration tends to draw a large congregation. I had hoped to return to the way we used celebrate the sacrament this Lent, but the number of daily Covid infections is now so high that I think gathering a large congregation at present is unwise. Therefore, I suggest we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Masses next weekend.

Synodal Pastoral Plan
At the beginning of Lent, I began to share how the Pastoral Plan is beginning to be implemented in the Archdiocese. I shared how the first of six areas of development was progressing, but then the war in Ukraine rightly took precedence. I will resume these updates after Holy Week.

And finally…
One of the six areas of development in the Pastoral Plan is "Becoming a Church that cares for its priests". It was very humbling for your priests to see this as a priority for people in our parishes.

During the last few weeks, the priests of the Archdiocese have had a one-to-one with an external facilitator to see how we are and how we can be better supported. One of the questions we were asked was, "Where to do you get your support?" I found myself saying: "Mostly from the parishioners who come to Mass." For this, I am incredibly grateful. Thank you with all my heart.

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. Tel: 01925 630127. Email address: 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. Our churches are also open 30 minutes before and after Mass.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 27 March 4th Sunday of Lent (C)	**10.30 am Mass** Alan Lloyd	**(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass** Eileen Lawton **8.30 am Mass** The Parishioners
Monday 28 March		**7.30 pm Prayer Group**
Tuesday 29 March		**11.00 am Mass** Beverley Barnes
Wednesday 30 March	**10.00 – 11.00 am Exposition** **11.00 am Mass** Lucyna Nawrot	
Thursday 31 March		**11.00 am Mass** Daniel Davies **7.00 pm Stations of the Cross**
Friday 1 April	**11.00 am Mass** Ethan Milan	
Saturday 2 April		**4.30 pm Vigil Mass** The Parishioners
Sunday 3 April 5th Sunday of Lent (C)	**10.30 am Mass** Problematic Pregnancy	**8.30 am Mass** Pope Francis

COLLECTIONS – 20 March 2022

Offertory £1068.55 *(£365.07 Gift Aid)*
Ukraine (cash) £88.00

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be the annual collection to support Nugent, the Archdiocesan caring service.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Offertory envelopes for the new tax year are available as you leave church. The boxes with names on are Gift Aid envelopes; the boxes with no names on are non-Gift Aid for anyone to use.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesdays 10.00 – 11.00 am at St Benedict's
Stations of the Cross
Thursdays 7.00 pm at St Oswald's.

JOB VACANCY

Cardinal Newman High School are seeking to appoint a part-time Finance Assistant. For full details, see 'Vacancies' under 'Our School' on the school website: www.cardinal-newman.org.uk

SILENCE IN THE PINEWOODS

Introduction to Contemplation through Centering Prayer led by Fr Richard Sloan. Saturday 2 April, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, at St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue, Formby L37 1PH. Suggested donation £12 (please bring a packed lunch). Please register here: https://forms.gle/KSd8saSrTTP3HxAn9

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today **4th Sunday of Lent (C)**
Readings Joshua 5: 9-12
2 Corinthians 5: 17-21
Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
Weekdays Lent – Week 4

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, Vera Brindle, Hilda Creagan, Carol Feeney, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Thomas Ireland, Susan Keating, Peter Milner, Trina Moulsdale, Rita Ollier, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Paul Vernon, Stuart Williams, Dolores Woodall.

St Oswald's

Keith Bate, Louise Boughey, Catherine Carne, Peter Cox, Susan Disley, Betty Fiddler, Margaret Inkersol, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Mary Massey, Mike McCarrick, Jean Murphy, 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), Fr John Poland, Fr Tom Gagie, Fr Bernard Jackson.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Patricia Fox and Geoff Moulsdale.

Liverpool R.C. Archdiocesan Trustees Incorporated.
A Registered Charity No. 232709.