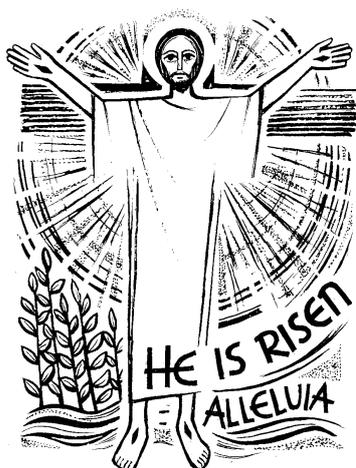


# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

Easter Sunday – 17 April 2022

**“This is the day that God has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad in it!”**

*(Psalm 117)*

### EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Easter Sunday, the day when we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, is always a day of joy and of hope – a day when we celebrate the gift of life itself and the triumph of light over darkness, of good over evil, and of peace over war. The great Easter proclamation, the Exsultet, which is sung at our Easter Vigil, the first service of Easter, says: ‘The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord and brings down the mighty’.

The Easter Vigil is always celebrated in darkness to emphasise the light and glory of the Risen Lord, but it comes at the end of Holy Week, a time when we remember the passion and death of Jesus. It is a time of high drama and emotion, of suffering and of mystery. It begins in triumph as Jesus enters Jerusalem, a king riding on a donkey receiving the adulation of the crowds as they cheer and wave palm branches. The mood rapidly changes to one of darkness and betrayal, mental anguish, suffering and death on a cross. If we lay all before the Lord at the foot of that cross God will take us beyond the cross from darkness to light and from war to peace.

As Jesus died on the cross, he prayed, ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do’. Violence and war are human failings by people who do not know what they are doing.

In these last months we have witnessed a time of darkness, unjust aggression, violence, war and the death of innocent people. We have been praying for peace for the people of Ukraine and our generosity has united us with them. In the Archdiocese of Liverpool, we have united with the people of Drohobych and their Auxiliary Bishop, Gregory Komar, who wrote to us: ‘We have witnessed that God is with us, that we are not alone in our anguish, that throughout the whole world there are many people of good will supporting us.’

Yes, God is with us all the time, even though we may not realise it. The Risen Lord comes to us as we reach out to those most in need.

Through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Easter gives us hope, Bishop Gregory ends his message to us by saying, ‘I am asking you, dear brothers and sisters, to be alongside us in this Way of the Cross, in these dramatic days, when the future of Europe and of the whole world is being decided. Share with us your material blessings and your support, and we in our turn will share with you our love, our gratitude, our faith and our hope.’

Let us accept the love, gratitude, faith and hope of the Ukrainian people as our Easter gift this year as we continue to support them, and may we be empowered by the presence of the Risen Lord today as he calls us beyond the fear of the unknown. For the people of Ukraine, for those in our world who suffer conflict, hunger, injustice and deprivation, for our families and for ourselves may we make the greeting of the Risen Lord our prayer this Easter – ‘Peace be with you’.

**Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, OP**

*Archbishop of Liverpool*

### 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**

*Please note:* The Parish Office will be closed this week while Fr Dave has a break.

3) **Parish Website** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk)

4) **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Confession is available on request or by appointment.

5) **St Benedict's Church**

*Please note:* This week, St Benedict's will only be open for Sunday Mass.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

	<b>St Benedict's</b>	<b>St Oswald's</b>
<b>Easter Sunday, 17 April</b>	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners	<b>(Sat) 8.00 pm The Easter Vigil</b> Samuel Taylor <b>8.30 am Mass</b> Ian Whelan
<b>Monday 18 April</b> Easter Octave		<i>No Prayer Group</i>
<b>Tuesday 19 April</b> Easter Octave		<i>No Mass today</i>
<b>Wednesday 20 April</b> Easter Octave	<i>No Mass today</i>	
<b>Thursday 21 April</b> Easter Octave		<i>No Mass today</i>
<b>Friday 22 April</b> Easter Octave	<i>No Mass today</i>	
<b>Saturday 23 April</b> Easter Octave		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Joseph Lennon
<b>Sunday 24 April</b> 2nd Sunday of Easter (C)	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Mary Howl	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

*The Season of Easter lasts for 50 days and concludes with the great feast of Pentecost.*

**BLESSED JAMES BELL**

This Wednesday, 20 April, is the feast of our Parish Patron, Blessed James Bell. Since the feast falls during the Easter Octave which takes priority over patronal feasts, we'll do what we've done before and transfer the feast to the Sunday closest to the Solemnity of All Saints which, this year, is 30 October.

**VACANCIES**

There are several vacancies in the new Pastoral Development Department of the Archdiocese. For further details, please see under 'Jobs' on the Archdiocesan website: [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

3 April 2022      £1015.91    (£258.20 Gift Aid)  
10 April 2022    £1003.83   (£395.25 Gift Aid)  
Standing Orders   £275.24    (£206.00 Gift Aid)

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

HE IS RISEN  
*alleluia*

**A very happy Easter to you all! May the joy of this day – the greatest day of the year for Christians – lift your spirits, renew your hope, and bring peace to your hearts.**

With my prayers,  
*Fr Dave*

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)*

**Today**                    **Easter Sunday**  
*Readings*             Acts 10: 34, 37-43  
                                 Colossians 3: 1-4  
                                 John 20: 1-9  
**Weekdays**         Easter Octave

*Alleluia!*

**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, Malcolm Hackwell, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Thomas Ireland, Susan Keating, Peter Milner, Trina Mouldsdale, 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.

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