

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



SEASON OF CREATION

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Mass for the Care of Creation
4 September 2022

CHANGES TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

As the number of daily infections comes down:

- ➔ The wearing of face coverings is optional.
- ➔ Please give each other space when entering and leaving church, and at communion.
- ➔ Sanitising hands when entering church continues to be recommended.
- ➔ If you are displaying symptoms of Covid-19, then you should stay at home and not come to church.

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

All creatures of our God and King (694) verses 1-4

Greeting & Introduction

Penitential Act

God of creation, you have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced.

Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. Through the warming of the oceans and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled.

Christ, have mercy. **R. Christ, have mercy.**

You created Mother Earth, our common home, who sustains us. Human activities are causing the destruction of her delicate ecosystems as we contaminate the atmosphere with harmful emissions.

Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

Collect

God of the universe,
you graciously give us all good gifts.
Teach us to care for the earth:
to till the soils responsibly, to keep the air pure,
to free the waters from pollution,
to harvest the warmth of the sun,
to protect the climate
and to respect the rights of all species.
May we share the gifts of your goodness with all.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

(Wisdom 9: 13-18)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

What man indeed can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90

**In every age, O Lord,
you have been our refuge.**

- 1 You turn man back to dust,
saying, "Return, O children of men."
For a thousand years in your sight
are as yesterday, now that it is past,
or as a watch of the night.
- 2 You make an end of them in their sleep;
the next morning they are like the changing grass,
which at dawn springs up anew,
but by evening wilts and fades.

Second Reading

(Philemon 9-10, 12-17)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel (Luke 14: 25-33)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

A Profession of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: All things bright and beautiful – John Rutter

Prayer over the Offerings

Creator God,
may these gifts,
the fruits of the earth and the work of human hands,
become for us the body and blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Mass of Hope – Bernadette Farrell (559)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy Lord, Holy Lord, God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is he
who comes in the name,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

Communion

When coming forward for communion, please give the person in front of you some space, and please try to avoid contact with the minister's hands by keeping your hands as flat as possible. Thank you.

Music: For the beauty of the earth – John Rutter

Prayer after Communion

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Let us with a gladsome mind (707)

Acknowledgements

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