

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
9 October 2022**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Compassion

This Sunday's Gospel is the story of Jesus healing ten people who were suffering with leprosy. Leprosy is an incredibly infectious disease so, in the time of Jesus, people who contracted the disease were forced to live apart from the community. It was necessary, but harsh. How did they survive? How did they get food, medical help, company? It's no wonder Jesus felt immediate compassion for those who approached him.

In contrast, I was shocked by the lack of compassion at this week's party-political conference. It makes me wonder: Do MPs realise that most people don't want to have to claim universal credit but are forced to do so because of their circumstances? Do they realise the humiliation people with disabilities are forced to go through in order to claim extra support? Do they realise the horror the majority have experienced who come to our shores seeking asylum? The rhetoric used by some MPs this week was devoid of any compassion or understanding of the realities so many people face.

The people pilloried in speeches this week are not in a dissimilar situation to those who came to Jesus in today's Gospel. They deserve so much better.

Covid-19 Update

Unfortunately, Covid-19 is on the rise again. There are about 220,000 cases a day which equates to 1 in every 26 people (R being 1:1). At the same time, the common cold is back. The symptoms for both Covid and colds are very similar. The only reliable way of finding out which you have is by taking a lateral flow test.

A Warm Space

Many thanks to those who were able to attend the brief meeting last Wednesday. We have decided to offer a

'Warm Space' on Wednesdays at St Benedict's, probably from November onwards. We plan to offer a soup lunch from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm, and then heat the Holy Family Chapel until 4.00 pm. Hot drinks will be available throughout. This space will be for anyone who wants to come for some warmth and perhaps a little company too. I am hoping to get a list together of other places offering the same.

Installation of Canons

The installation of new Canons will take place in the Cathedral during the 12.15 pm Mass on Tuesday 8 November. We've booked a coach which will leave St Oswald's at 11.00 am and St Benedict's at 11.10 am. If you want to come, Chris Sykes has kindly put together a sign-up list which you'll find at the back of church.

Deanery Synodal Council (DSC)

Each deanery has now set up a Synodal Council as part of implementing the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan which was the fruit of Synod 2020. Our DSC first met in July. We have our second meeting in Widnes next Saturday morning. Please pray for the DSC – that we learn to listen to each other and to our guide, the Holy Spirit.

Prisoners' Sunday

Finally, today is the annual Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents. Those in prison, their families and those with previous convictions often find themselves on the margins of society due to the social stigma associated with imprisonment. They are often forgotten or come lower down on the list of causes to 'hold a hand out to'. You will find a sheet of prayers and reflections at the back of church and on the parish website.

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, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm (except on Bank Holidays). Our churches are also open 30 minutes before Mass.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 9 October 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) <i>Day of Prayer for Prisoners & Dependents</i>	10.30 am Mass Kathryn Bradshaw	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Ron Clare 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 10 October		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 11 October St John XXIII, Pope		11.00 am Mass Ernie Bate
Wednesday 12 October	11.00 am Funeral Mass Bernard Hill	
Thursday 13 October St Edward the Confessor	10.15 am Funeral Service Jimmy O'Halloran	11.00 am Mass Margaret Hibbert 7.00 pm Novena
Friday 14 October	No Mass today <i>(Fr Dave attending a Day for Priests)</i>	
Saturday 15 October St Teresa of Avila		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Norman Johnson
Sunday 16 October 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)	10.30 am Mass Joan Howl	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

02.10.22	£721.39	(£285.75 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£122.07	(£98.99 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£75.00	
Total	£918.46	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION

There's a Second Collection as you leave church today for CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day which was on Friday.

NURSERY AT ST OSWALD'S

St Oswald's Catholic Primary School is planning to open its own Nursery. The Governors have opened a period of consultation which runs until the end of October. You can find full details on a sheet at the back of church. This is an important and exciting development for St Oswald's which will help to secure the future of the school and improve the outstanding provision we are able to offer the children we serve.

WARRINGTON SPEAK UP

World Mental Health Day 'Soup and Chat' at The Gateway, 89 Sankey Street, Warrington WA1 1SR on Monday 10 October, 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm.

AUTUMN & WINTER

This year, we will not be able to heat our churches as we usually do because of the massive rise in energy costs. Although we hope to at least take the chill off the buildings when we gather for Mass, we strongly advise dressing warmly for church.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are all sorts of job opportunities in the Archdiocese at the moment. To see what's on offer and

for further details, look under 'Jobs' on the Archdiocesan website: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
<i>Readings</i>	2 Kings 5: 14-17 2 Timothy 2: 8-13 Luke 17: 11-19
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 28

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, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Margaret Russell-Cruise, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Paul Vernon, Dolores Woodall.

St Oswald's

Keith Bate, Louise Boughy, Catherine Carne, Peter Cox, Susan Disley, Betty Fiddler, Margaret Inkersol, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Mike McCarrick, Jean Murphy, Sheila Pinnock, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts.

Other Parishes

Alan Brompton, Catherine Donaldson, Deacon John Trainer, John Hughes (Vietnam), June Fallon, Jean Jones, Margaret Mobbs, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park).

Those who have died recently, especially:

Bernard Hill, Jimmy O'Halloran, Anita Yates.