

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
16 October 2022**

My dear sisters and brothers,

On Friday, the priests of the Archdiocese gathered with the Archbishop for Mass and lunch at St Margaret Clitherow Centre (formerly known as LACE). It was an opportunity to celebrate with the priests who are marking significant anniversaries of their ordination this year. In our own deanery, two of the priests in Widnes are celebrating jubilees – Fr Mark Moran (Silver Jubilee) and Bishop John Rawsthorne (Diamond Jubilee).

I remember attending a similar gathering at Upholland just after my own ordination in 1989. Then, there were about 325 priests in the Archdiocese. Now, in 2022, there are just over a hundred. In this month's Catholic Pictorial, the Archbishop writes that in twenty years' time the number of active priests will be about 50!

Recently, I was interviewed about the declining number of priests as well as the dwindling number of people who come regularly to Sunday Mass. I said I think it's part of the ebb and flow of Church life over the centuries. Fr John McLoughlin describes it as the tide going out, but it'll come back. What's the cause? To a large extent, I think it's down to secularisation. When society, and the families which make up that society, no longer see the need for Church or religion, or have a very individualistic idea of faith, then inevitably there will be less vocations and smaller congregations.

The situation in which we find ourselves is not hopeless and we shouldn't let it get us down. We simply need to regroup, as it were, and continue to serve God and his people as best we can. The Deanery Synodal Council will help us to do this in the coming

years. As I've often said, it's the Lord's Church. He's kept it going for the last two thousand years and he'll continue to keep it going. We just have to learn to listen to him and allow his Spirit to guide us.

With my prayers,
Fr Dave

ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Next year's Pilgrimage to Lourdes will mark one hundred years since the first Archdiocesan Pilgrimage in 1923. Young people aged 15 (or in Year 10) to 22 can book online at www.liverpool Lourdes youth.co.uk Young adults aged 18 and over: application forms are available from www.animate youth.org

SAFE SPACES

The Church of England and the Catholic Church in England and Wales will continue to provide support for victims of church-based abuse, following a successful two-year pilot of the Safe Spaces service. Currently delivered by the independent charity, Victim Support, Safe Spaces is a free national support service which offers a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic Church in England and Wales. See the website: www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

NUGENT GALA

'Nugent 140 Gala' on 3 November at Rum Warehouse, Titanic Hotel. Welcome drinks, three course meal, live raffle/auction and an evening of live band. Tickets: <https://wearenugent.org/fundraising/gala>

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.
- 6) **Communion at Home** – If you are not able to come to Mass and would like to receive communion at home, please phone the Parish Office (630127).

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 16 October 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)	10.30 am Mass Joan Howl	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Norman Johnson 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 17 October St Ignatius of Antioch		11.00 am Funeral Mass Anita Yates 7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 18 October Feast of St Luke, Evangelist		11.00 am Mass Bernadette Bentley
Wednesday 19 October	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Alan Houghton	
Thursday 20 October		No Mass today <i>(Fr Dave attending Meeting for Deans)</i> 7.00 pm Novena
Friday 21 October	11.00 am Mass Jimmy O'Halloran	
Saturday 22 October St John Paul II, Pope		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Rita Devine
Sunday 23 October 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) <i>World Mission Day</i>	10.30 am Mass People from Hong Kong	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

09.10.22	£566.93	(£266.67 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£122.07	(£98.99 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£118.00	
Total	£807.00	
2nd Collection	£582.35	(CAFOD)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday is World Mission Day when we pray and reach out to missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. There will be a Second Collection for the Pope's charity, 'Missio', (i.e. the 'Red Box' charity).

INSTALLATION OF CANONS

The installation of new Canons will take place in the Cathedral during the 12.15 pm Mass on Tuesday 8 November. 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 and haven't signed up, please phone the Parish Office to book a place.

HOSPITAL

Just a reminder: (1) If you have a loved one in hospital who needs a priest urgently, please ask one of the nurses to contact the 'On Call Catholic Priest' rather than phoning around the parishes. This is the quickest way of getting a priest to the hospital. (2) If you have a loved one in hospital who would like a priest to visit them, please contact Fr Dave on 630127. Thank you.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
<i>Readings</i>	Exodus 17: 8-13; 2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 2 Luke 18: 1-8
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 29

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 Boughhey, 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:

Anita Yates.

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