

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

4 December 2022

My dear sisters and brothers,

Christmas Mass Times

Many thanks to all those who shared their thoughts with me about this year's Christmas Mass times. Taking all you have said into account, I propose the following schedule of Masses for this Christmas:

Christmas Eve Masses

4.30 & 6.30 pm at St Oswald's

Christmas Day Masses

8.30 & 10.30 am at St Benedict's

Advent Penance Service

This year, we are able to resume our practice of gathering before Christmas to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So I invite you to join me for our annual Advent Penance Service on Tuesday 20 December at 7.30 pm in St Oswald's.

Advent Collections

This year's Advent Collections will conclude next Sunday, 11 December. If you are able but have not had chance to donate in some way, perhaps think about doing so this week.

1) Warrington Foodbank

Buy something extra when you're out shopping, bring it to church, and we'll take it to the Foodbank.

2) Parish Caritas Fund

If you wish, you could make a donation to our Parish Caritas Fund. We use this money to support those who are struggling through no fault of their own.

3) St Francis Collection

Food, treats and toys to help Warrington Animal Welfare care for the enormous number of animals that are tragically abandoned during the year, especially at present and over the Christmas period.

LGBTQ+ Catholics

The next Mass with LGBTQ+ Catholics and friends will take place at 2.00 pm next Sunday, 11 December, at All Saints, Anfield L4 2QG followed by a social gathering. All are most welcome.

Buildings Update – St Benedict's

1) At long last, the Grotto is almost complete. I'm hopeful that the water feature is now repaired. The final task is to clad the new perimeter wall and reinstall the plants. We hope to do this in the New Year.

2) Frustratingly, the plans to repair and upgrade the lighting in church has not come to fruition. We've now approached another contractor to obtain tenders for this work.

3) Repairs to the roof in recent years means the church is watertight but pointing is needed to areas of the brickwork to prevent damp and further water ingress. I hope this work will take place soon.

Buildings Update – St Oswald's

1) When I arrived seven years ago, I began a two-year rolling programme of repairing the potholes in the car park. It's time to carry out that work again. So, in the New Year, it is hoped to undertake repairs to the left-hand side of the car park (facing the church).

2) The experimental patching to the church roof seems to have stopped any water ingress for two years! This is good news. A survey is due to take place in January to see how effective these repairs have been and if they have also prevented water from seeping into the walls of the church.

We've also had a number of inspections in both churches since September, i.e. fire alarms, emergency lighting, lightning conductors, electrics, heating and fire safety.

With my prayers,
Fr Dave

General Information

1) **Parish Priest:** Canon Dave Heywood. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: frdave@rcaol.org.uk Address: St Benedict's Priory, Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE. **Deacons:** Revv Tony Kerrigan & David Boyle.

2) **Parish Office:** Mrs Celia Rigby. Monday to Friday, 9.00 am – 5.00 pm. Tel: 01925 630127. Email address: blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.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 – 3.00 pm.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 4 December 2nd Sunday of Advent (A)	10.30 am Mass The Parishioners	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Ken Hindle 8.30 am Mass Ellen Cox
Monday 5 December St John Almond		<i>The Prayer Group will resume meetings in January</i>
Tuesday 6 December		11.00 am Mass Private Intention
Wednesday 7 December St Ambrose	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Private Intention (LISC)	
Thursday 8 December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary		No Mass today <i>(Funeral Mass for Deacon John Traynor at St Joseph's, Penketh)</i>
Friday 9 December	No Mass today <i>(Fr Dave attending Meeting for Deans)</i>	
Saturday 10 December		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Alf & Mary Baker
Sunday 11 December 3rd Sunday of Advent (A) <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	10.30 am Mass The Parishioners	8.30 am Mass Josephine & Barry Thompson

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

27.11.22	£754.67	(£328.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£122.07	(£98.99 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£192.00	(£47.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1068.74	
2nd Collection	£269.71	(Animate Youth)
Pious Lists	£612.65	(Priests Training Fund)
Parish Caritas	£1050.00	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN

St Elphin's are holding a Candlelight Service to remember children who have died on Monday 5 December at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

WARM SPACES

Wednesdays in the sacristy at St Benedict's: 12.00 noon – 3.00 pm with soup (12.00 – 1.00 pm) and hot drinks throughout. Many thanks to the hosts.

Thursdays in St Benedict's Parish Centre: 1.00 – 3.00 pm. Many thanks to Adam for hosting.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please note: The Archdiocese has updated our email addresses. The old addresses will still work, but our new addresses are:

Fr Dave: frdave@rcaol.org.uk

Parish Office: blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL CAROL SERVICE

Sacred Heart are holding an International Carol Service on Sunday 18 December at 3.00 pm followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today **2nd Sunday of Advent (A)**

Readings Isaiah 11: 1-10

Romans 15: 4-9

Matthew 3: 1-12

Weekdays Advent – Week 2

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 Mouldsdales, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Paul Vernon, Dolores Woodall.

St Oswald's

Keith Bate, Catherine Carne, Peter Cox, Susan Disley, Betty & Tom 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, John Hughes (Vietnam), June Fallon, Jean Jones, Margaret Mobbs, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park).

Those who have died recently, especially:

John Trainer, John Curley, Michael Morris, Maureen Fisher, Colin Powers, Robert Wandon, Albert Harper.

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