

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**3rd Sunday of Advent (A)
11 December 2022**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Cold Weather

Gosh, it's been cold this week. I'd forgotten what it's like to be in a house without heating when the temperature plummets. I gave in on Wednesday evening and put the heating on for a few hours, and I felt guilty for doing so given the high price of energy at present. I blame my cats – they made me do it!

This week's cold spell got me thinking. Like many of you, I grew up in a house that had no central heating. There was a coal fire in the back-room downstairs, but no heating in the other rooms. We slept in cold rooms covered in blankets and a hot water bottle and, yes, I can remember ice on the inside of the windows too! How did we manage?

Then came central heating – radiators in every room. We've become used to warm houses and expect the same wherever we go. Now we're having to do what we used to do and find other ways to stay warm.

I do hope our 'warm spaces' are helpful. They've turned out to be a chance for people to meet up for a cuppa, a bowl of soup (thanks to Tomlins in Synge Street) and a chat. Anyone is welcome. Why not come along sometime – bring a friend.

Advent Retreat

Sr Maria has kindly offered to lead a short Advent Retreat at St Benedict's next Saturday morning, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. So, if you'd like a little 'time out' to rest, relax and recapture some of the joy and hope that is the promise of Christmas, do come along.

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.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Masses will be as follows:

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 Collections

This year's Advent Collections conclude today. Thank you so much to everyone who has been able to contribute in some way.

An English Christmas

Next Sunday, after the 10.30 am Mass, there will be an opportunity to sample some of the delights of an English Christmas as a way of celebrating our friends from Hong Kong. It will also be an opportunity for the children to help decorate the church for Christmas.

Parish Food Policy

As some of you may know, the legislation surrounding the provision of food at community and charity events has been updated recently. Food provided at such events must comply with food law and be safe to eat. This necessarily means making some changes to our usual practices. It's been a bit of a headache for Celia and I in recent weeks, so I contacted the Food Standards Agency who couldn't have been more helpful. With the information they supplied, I'll be able to put a simple Parish Food Policy together. For now, if you want to provide food for a parish gathering or group, please check with me. Thanks.

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 11 December 3rd Sunday of Advent (A) <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	10.30 am Mass The Parishioners	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Alf & Mary Baker 8.30 am Mass Josephine & Barry Thompson
Monday 12 December		<i>Prayer Group resumes in January</i>
Tuesday 13 December St Lucy		11.00 am Mass Rita Devine
Wednesday 14 December St John of the Cross	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Margaret Hibbert	10.15 am Funeral Service John Francis Curley 2.30 pm Y1 & Y2 Nativity
Thursday 15 December	<i>(1.20 pm Funeral at Walton Lea Maureen May Fisher)</i> 6.00 pm School Carol Service	11.30 am Funeral Service Michael Joseph Morris 2.30 pm Y3 & Y4 Nativity 6.00 pm Y5 & Y6 Nativity
Friday 16 December	12.00 noon Funeral Service Colin Powers <i>(1.30 pm School Christmas Mass)</i>	
Saturday 17 December	10.00 am Advent Retreat 12.30 pm Cantonese Prayer Meeting	4.30 pm Vigil Mass Frank Berry
Sunday 18 December 4th Sunday of Advent (A) <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Parents</i>	10.30 am Mass The Parishioners	8.30 am Mass Timothy & Annie Dewane

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

04.12.22	£846.62	(£319.95 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£122.07	(£98.99 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£187.00	(£47.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1155.69	
Parish Caritas	£205.00	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

Using Gift Aid will have added approximately £116.49 to last week's collection!

LGBTQ+ CATHOLICS

Mass with LGBTQ+ Catholics and friends at 2.00 pm today (Sunday) at All Saints, Anfield L4 2QG followed by a social gathering. All are most welcome.

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group will be holding a Christmas evening with light refreshments in the lounge at St Oswald's Parish Centre this Thursday, 15 December, at 8.00 pm.

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.

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.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	3rd Sunday of Advent (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10; James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11
Weekdays	Advent – Week 3

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