

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**4th Sunday of Advent (A)  
18 December 2022**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### 'Honky Tonky Donkey!'

I've had quite a lot of appointments in the Deanery and the Archdiocese during the last couple of weeks which inevitably takes me away from the parish and the schools. All that changed this week as I was able to join the children of both schools for their Christmas celebrations.

At St Oswald's, there were four Nativity's – Reception on Tuesday, Years 1 & 2 on Wednesday, Years 3 & 4 on Thursday afternoon followed by Years 5 & 6 on Thursday evening. Each Nativity was quite unique, retelling the story from a different perspective. The one that intrigued me the most was about a one-man band donkey called 'Honky Tonky Donkey'. He had writer's block and was looking for inspiration. The birth of Jesus gave him plenty to write about and the children sang his songs with Hollywood confidence!

Thursday evening saw St Benedict's Church filled to capacity with children and their parents for a service of Readings and Carols. The children sang their little hearts out despite the temperature dropping to minus numbers! Then, on Friday afternoon, I joined the children in school for their Christmas Mass which was simply beautiful.

Children have a way of reminding us of what Christmas is all about – something we grown-ups can easily miss in all the busyness and stress that can besiege us at this time of year.

### Advent Penance Service

I invite you to join me at St Oswald's on Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm for our Advent Penance Service. This service, which is a simple Service of Reconciliation, always lifts our hearts and puts us in the right frame of mind for the coming festivities.

### Christmas Mass Times

Next weekend, we will celebrate the great feast of Christmas on Saturday and Sunday as follows:

#### Christmas Eve Masses

*Saturday 24 December*

4.30 & 6.30 pm at St Oswald's

#### Christmas Day Masses

*Sunday 25 December*

8.30 & 10.30 am at St Benedict's

### Colds, Covid & Flu

A lot of people are suffering from colds and flu at present – something that's been missing for the last two years while we've been so careful not to spread infections due to the pandemic. It's not surprising that these viruses have returned now that there are no pandemic restrictions. Unfortunately, Covid-19 is also on the rise again. At the time of writing, there are over 200,000 cases a day with 'R' being 1:1. This means about 1 in every 27 people have Covid at present.

Good hand hygiene, wearing a face covering in crowded indoor settings, giving other people space, and ventilating indoor spaces remains good (even if unpopular) advice.

### And finally...

I do hope that you can carve out some time for YOU during the next couple of weeks, meet with those you want to spend some time with, stay calm and peaceful despite the madness in the shops and on the roads, and renew your relationship with the Lord who came for YOU because he loves YOU.

With my prayers,  
*Fr Dave*

### General Information

1) **Parish Priest:** Canon Dave Heywood. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: [frdave@rcaol.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.uk)

3) **Parish Website** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://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
<b>Sunday 18 December</b> 4th Sunday of Advent (A) <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Parents</i>	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Frank Berry <b>8.30 am Mass</b> Timothy & Annie Dewane
<b>Monday 19 December</b>		<b>No Prayer Group</b>
<b>Tuesday 20 December</b>		<b>9.15 am School Christmas Mass</b> Peace in Ukraine <b>7.30 pm Advent Penance Service</b>
<b>Wednesday 21 December</b> <i>(10.45 am Funeral at Warrington Cemetery for Michael Loughlin)</i>	<b>10.15 am Exposition</b> <b>11.00 am Mass</b> All those who are sick	<b>1.00 pm Memorial Service</b> Robert Wanbon
<b>Thursday 22 December</b>	<b>12.30 pm Funeral Mass</b> Albert Harper	<b>No Mass or Novena today</b>
<b>Friday 23 December</b>	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Pope Francis	
<b>Saturday 24 December</b> Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord <i>Christmas Eve</i>		<b>4.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass</b> People of the Holy Land <b>6.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass</b> The Parishioners
<b>Sunday 25 December</b> Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord <i>Christmas Day</i>	<b>8.30 am Christmas Day Mass</b> Matthew Shaw <b>10.30 am Christmas Day Mass</b> Arthur & Molly Whalley	

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

11.12.22	£625.35	(£214.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£122.07	(£98.99 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£132.00	(£42.00 Gift Aid)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£879.42</b>	
Parish Caritas	£780.00	
Donation	£100.00	(For warm space)

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

Using Gift Aid will have added approximately £89.00 to last week's collection!

### CAFOD FUN RUN

This year's CAFOD Fun Run will take place on Tuesday 27 December at The Mystery, Wavertree Athletics Centre, Wellington Road, Liverpool L15 4LE. You can run or walk 3km or 5km on your own or with family and friends to help raise funds for CAFOD. Registration takes place at 10.00 am and the run/walk starts at 11.00 am. The cost to take part is £5 per child, £10 per adult or £20 per family.

### 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 4)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent (A)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 7: 10-14; Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-24
<b>Weekdays</b>	Advent: 17-24 December

### 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, James Glover, Malcolm Hackwell, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Thomas Ireland, Susan Keating, Peter Milner, Trina Mouldsdale, 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, 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:**

Michael Loughlin, Robert Wanbon, Albert Harper, Deacon Vin Anderson.