

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
25 December 2022

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

We always speak of Christmas celebrations as being a time of joy and happiness, and a time to gather with family and friends. We see this in the weeks leading up to the feast - a time of preparation when people want to make sure that everything is perfect. This year may have to be different – a recent survey suggested that 54% of people in this country will be cutting back on Christmas celebrations against a backdrop of rising food prices and energy costs. It's very easy to lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas amidst the tinsel, glitter, food and drink, and yet the realities of the first Christmas are all around us today and we don't have to look far to see them.

Life was uncertain for Mary and Joseph too as they travelled the long road to Bethlehem where they had to take part in a census called by an occupying power. Christ was born in a stable on a cold winter's night – not an ideal time or place for our saviour to be born. His first visitors were shepherds who had been looking after their sheep on a cold, bleak hillside, not the visitors you might expect.

Our times may be uncertain, and our Christmas may be different this year but the reason for our celebrations remains unchanged.

Our annual celebration of Christmas is one of love and peace and nothing can change that. We believe that our love for one another is a sign of God's love for us - 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son' – and through our celebrations we give thanks to God for sending us Jesus, born of Mary in Bethlehem, announced by the angels, and visited by those shepherds and later by wise men.

It is the love of God that shines through this great feast, and we show that love by the ways in which we reach out to those around us. To our relatives and friends, to those alone at Christmas, to those in need who have much less than ourselves and by the way in which we welcome those seeking refuge in our country.

While some things may have to change for us the message of Christmas remains the same, precious moments with those we love and care for, this is the warmth, the comfort and the joy which Christmas brings to us and those around us.

Above all Christmas is, has always been, and always will be a time of hope. The hope which the birth of Jesus brings is for all time and eternal. In his Gospel St John says, 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'. Jesus is the light of the world shining through any darkness in our lives. May this Christmas be a time of hope for us all.

I wish you a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

*Merry
Christmas
& Happy
New
year*

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.
- 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
Saturday 24 December Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord <i>Christmas Eve</i>		4.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass People of the Holy Land 6.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass The Parishioners
Sunday 25 December Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.30 am Christmas Day Mass Matthew Shaw 10.30 am Christmas Day Mass Arthur & Molly Whalley	
Monday 26 December Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr		<i>No Prayer Group</i>
Tuesday 27 December Feast of St John, Apostle & Evangelist		11.00 am Mass Sr Helena's Intentions
Wednesday 28 December Feast of the Holy Innocents	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Nadine Davies	
Thursday 29 December Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury		11.00 am Mass John Skelland <i>No Novena</i>
Friday 30 December Feast of the Holy Family (A)	11.00 am Mass Private Intention (LISC)	
Saturday 31 December <i>New Year's Eve</i>		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Colin Sykes
Sunday 1 January 2023 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God <i>New Year's Day</i>	10.30 am Mass World Peace	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

18.12.22	£794.22	(£358.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£122.07	(£98.99 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£92.00	(£50.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1008.29	
Parish Caritas	£240.00	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

CAFOD FUN RUN

This year's CAFOD Fun Run takes place on Tuesday 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 is at 10.00 am and the run/walk starts at 11.00 am. Cost to take part is £5 per child, £10 per adult or £20 per family.

WARM SPACES

Wednesday in the sacristy at St Benedict's: 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm with soup and hot drinks throughout. *Please note:* No Warm Space on Thursday this week.



**May the birth of Christ remind you
of the great love God has for you,
and may his peace rest upon you.**

Fr Dave & Fr Austin, Deacons Tony & David

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	The Nativity of the Lord
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 9: 1-7; Luke 2: 1-20; John 1: 1-18
Weekdays	Octave of the Nativity

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, Vera Brindle, Ian Buist, 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, 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:

Lillian Reay, Margaret Merriman.

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