

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Christmas Dawn Mass

Sunday 25 December 2022

### Introductory Rites

#### Entrance Procession

- 1 **Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a Mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.**
- 2 **He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

#### Greeting & Introduction

#### Lighting of the Christmas Candle

#### Collect

Almighty God and Father of light,  
a child is born for us and a son is given to us.  
Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven  
in the silent watches of the night,  
and now your Church is filled with wonder  
at the nearness of her God.

Open our hearts to receive his life  
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn,  
that our lives  
may be filled with his glory and his peace,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

### Liturgy of the Word

#### Scripture Reading

*(Luke 2: 1-20)*

The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Now at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the

first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

#### Gloria

- 1 **Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo still their joyous strains.**

***Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

***Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

- 2 **Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
th'infant Christ, the new-born King.**

#### Scripture Reading *(continued)*

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### Homily

#### Blessing of the Crib

God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have shown your love.  
When our need for a Saviour was great  
you sent your Son to be born of Mary.  
To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy and love.  
Bless all who look upon this manger;  
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and raise up our thoughts to him,  
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

#### Intercessions

Let us pray that the love God has shown us in the gift of his Son may inspire us to love one another.

**R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.**

For peace in the world, especially in Ukraine and in the land of Christ's birth. In a special way, we remember our sisters and brothers in the parishes of Our Lady of the Rosary and St James the Less in Jordan.

**R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.**

For those who find Christmas difficult because they are lonely or have nowhere to call home, because they are missing someone or struggling with what life has handed them, because they are in prison or in a refugee camp.

**R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.**

For those who are sick, those mourning the loss of a loved one, and for anyone who is far from home, especially those who serve us in the armed forces.

**R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.**

For those who are dear to us; those who have died, especially Lillian Reay and Margaret Merriman; and for those we are remembering this weekend, especially Arthur & Molly Whalley, Matthew Shaw, and all the people of this parish community.

**R. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell within us.**

Now let us ask Mary, the mother of the newborn King, to pray for us all: **Hail Mary...**

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Preparation of the Gifts

*Music: "For unto us a child is born" – G F Handel*

### Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,  
accept our gifts on this joyful feast of our salvation.

By our communion with God made man,  
may we become more like him  
who joins our lives to yours,  
for he is Lord for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

### Eucharistic Prayer

*Mass of Hope – Bernadette Farrell*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
Holy Lord, Holy Lord, God of hosts.  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is he  
who comes in the name,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

### The Lord's Prayer

### Sign of Peace

### Communion

- Away in a manger,  
no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down his sweet head,  
the stars in the bright sky**

**looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.**

- The cattle are lowing,  
the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus  
no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus!  
Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side  
until morning is nigh.**

- Be near me, Lord Jesus;  
I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever,  
and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven,  
to live with thee there.**

### Prayer after Communion

God our Father,  
we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour.  
May we share his life completely  
by living as he has taught.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## Concluding Rite

### Blessing & Dismissal

### Final Hymn

- O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:**

*O come, let us adore him (x3)  
Christ the Lord.*

- Yea, Lord we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:**



### Acknowledgements

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