

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## 3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

11 December 2022

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### Introductory Rites

#### Entrance Procession

On Jordan's bank (94)

#### Greeting & Introduction

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!

#### Penitential Act

#### Collect

God of glory and compassion,  
at your touch the wilderness blossoms,  
broken lives are made whole,  
and fearful hearts grow strong in faith.

Open our eyes to your presence  
and awaken our hearts to sing your praise.  
To all who long for your Son's return  
grant perseverance and patience,  
that we may announce in word and deed  
the good news of the kingdom.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near:  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

### Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading

*(Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,

let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 146

##### Lord, come and save us.

- 1 The Lord God keeps faith forever,  
secures justice for the oppressed,  
gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets captives free.
- 2 The Lord gives sight to the blind;  
the Lord raises up those who were bowed down.  
The Lord loves the just;  
the Lord protects strangers.

#### Second Reading

*(James 5: 7-10)*

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### Gospel Acclamation

#### Gospel

*(Matthew 11: 2-11)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Homily

### Apostles' Creed

*Together, we say:*

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### Bidding Prayers

Come, Lord Jesus! **R. Maranatha!**

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Preparation of the Gifts

*Song:* Word made flesh (989) verses 1-4

### Prayer over the Offerings

O God of joy and gladness,  
we present these simple gifts of bread and wine,  
the fruit of rain and sunshine  
and the patient work of our hands.  
May the Spirit of your Son  
help us to sustain one another  
with the bread of nourishment and the wine of joy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

### Eucharistic Prayer

*Mass of Hope – Bernadette Farrell (559)*

**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 Mystery of Faith*

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

### The Lord's Prayer

### Sign of Peace

### Communion

*Music:* Come, thou Redeemer of the earth – St Ambrose (d. 397)

### Prayer after Communion

God, the sustainer of life,  
you have refreshed our hope and joy  
in this holy meal with your Son.  
Help us in our efforts  
to strengthen the weary,  
to give hope to the discouraged,  
to walk with the weak and the poor,  
and to lift up those who need comfort and care.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## Concluding Rite

### Blessing & Dismissal

### Final Song

Our God reigns (768) verses 1-3

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### Acknowledgements

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