

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



4th Sunday of Advent (A)

18 December 2022

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession *(The Great 'O' Antiphons)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel (112) verses 1-4

Greeting & Introduction

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Penitential Act

Music: Advent Wreath Service (65)

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
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 7: 10-14)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

- 1 The Lord's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
- 2 Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless,
whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

Second Reading

(Romans 1: 1-7)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Matthew 1: 18-24)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has

conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

A Profession of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

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



Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Advent Carol: The angel Gabriel (113)

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of Mary. 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.**

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Communion

Chant: Rorate Coeli – Prudentius (based on Is 45: 8)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain righteousness:
may the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.
Show us, Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Come, Lord, and do not delay.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



Christmas Eve

Saturday 24 December

4.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass at St Oswald's
6.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass at St Oswald's

Christmas Day

Sunday 25 December

8.30 am Christmas Day Mass at St Benedict's
10.30 am Christmas Day Mass at St Benedict's