

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)  
Peace Sunday – 15 January 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### Peace Sunday

Today, the Bishops of England and Wales invite us to observe a Day of Prayer for Peace.

Much has changed since last year's 'Peace Sunday'. War returned to our continent in February with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Then, in November, the COP27 talks in Egypt brought new focus on the threat that climate change brings to many communities – especially the poorest – due to deforestation, extreme weather events and sea-level rise.

Sometimes it feels as though we have moved backwards in our efforts to bring peace and justice to the world. However, we can and do make a difference by the way we try to live our lives.

Today, perhaps think on these words of Pope Francis: "Let us look within and ask ourselves: are we peacemakers? In the places where we live, study and work, do we bring tension, words that hurt, chatter that poisons, controversy that divides? Or do we open up the way to peace? (1 November 2022).

Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace, has lots of information and resources for today's day of prayer: [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

I'm delighted to announce that Children's Liturgy of the Word returns to the 10.30 am Mass this weekend. On the first and third Sundays of the month, children of primary school age will be invited to leave the main body of the church at the beginning of Mass and go to the sacristy meeting room to explore the Gospel at a

level they can understand. They will then re-join us for the eucharist. *Please note:* Children's Liturgy is not a creche, but part of the Mass.

### Altar Servers

It's been lovely to see children returning to help as altar servers at Sunday Mass in recent months. This weekend, we will enrol them into the worldwide Guild of St Stephen, the patron saint of altar servers.

### Chinese New Year

Our Hong Kong parishioners invite us to join them after the 10.30 am Mass next Sunday as they celebrate the first day of the Chinese New Year. 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit!

### Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

This Wednesday, 18 January, marks the beginning of the annual Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The pandemic has interrupted the yearly cycle of prayer and fellowship with our sisters and brothers in the other local Christian Churches. Churches Together in East Warrington met for the first time in three years just before Christmas. Each church shared how the pandemic had affected their activities, congregations and income. We also shared what we had tried to do to keep in touch with members and support them. There has been an amazing array of initiatives. Hopefully, we can build on these in the coming months. Above all, it was clear that, if there was ever a time we needed each other, it is now.

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.

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  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Sunday 15 January</b><br>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)<br><i>Peace Sunday</i>              | <b>10.30 am Mass</b><br>The Parishioners                               | <b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b><br>Steve Raymond<br><b>8.30 am Mass</b><br>Derek Roberts       |
| <b>Monday 16 January</b>  |  | <b>7.00 pm Prayer Group</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday 17 January</b><br>St Anthony, Abbot  |  | <b>11.00 am Mass</b><br>Michael Morris<br><b>12.15 pm Funeral Service</b><br>Margaret Merriman |
| <b>Wednesday 18 January</b><br>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins                      | <b>10.15 am Exposition</b><br><b>11.00 am Mass</b><br>Ged Pidgeon      | <b>12.30 pm Funeral Service</b><br>Tom Fiddler   |
| <b>Thursday 19 January</b>  |  | <b>10.30 am Funeral Service</b><br>Anne Rowlands<br><i>No Novena today</i>                     |
| <b>Friday 20 January</b>  | 11.00 am Mass<br>Margaret Hibbert                                      |  |
| <b>Saturday 21 January</b><br>St Agnes, Martyr  |  | <b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b><br>Janet   |
| <b>Sunday 22 January</b><br>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)<br><i>Sunday of the Word of God</i> | <b>10.30 am Mass</b><br>John, Doris & Angela Ryan<br>Catherine Shireby | <b>8.30 am Mass</b><br>The Parishioners  |

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Last weekend's details will be in next week's newsletter.

1 Corinthians 1: 1-3

John 1: 29-34

**Weekdays**

Ordinary Time: Year 1, Week 2

### WARM SPACES AT ST BENEDICT'S

*(Please note revised times)*

Tuesdays 12.00 – 2.00 pm in the Parish Centre

Wednesdays 12.00 – 2.00 pm in the Church

Sacristy Meeting Room

Thursdays 5.00 – 7.00 pm in the Parish Centre

### FIRST COMMUNIONS 2023

Parishioners in Year 4, who do NOT attend St Benedict's Catholic Primary School or St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, and who would like to celebrate First Communion this year, please contact Fr Dave as soon as possible. Thank you.

### CONFIRMATIONS 2023

If you are in Year 8 and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, please visit the website [www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk) and click 'Register for Confirmation' at the top right-hand side of the page. Registration is open until 17 March 2023. Information about the preparation scheme can also be found on the Liverpool Called website.

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)*

**Today** **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

*Readings* Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6

### 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 Fiddler, 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, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Margaret Mobbs, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park), Pendar (a little Iranian boy).

**Those who have died recently, especially:**

Margaret Merriman, Tom Fiddler, Anne Rowlands, Margaret Inkersole, Vincent Lawton, Margaret Lorraine Duncanson, Stephen Millington, Kathleen Marie Hughes.