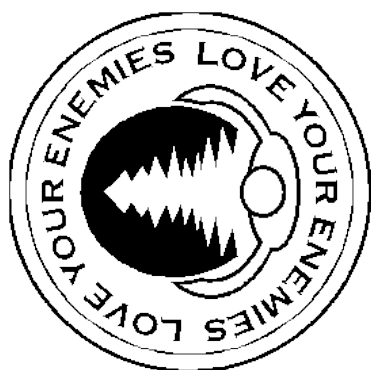


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
19 February 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Let The Children Live!

First, I want to thank you for your incredible generosity to Fr Peter Walters' charity, 'Let The Children Live!' Following his appeal last weekend, a total of **£1117.02** has been raised – and there are still more donations coming in. It's an enormous sum for a parish to raise, especially during the current cost of living crisis. Thank you so much.

Ash Wednesday

The annual Season of Lent begins this Wednesday, 22 February. Ashes will be blessed and distributed during Mass as follows:

11.00 am **Mass at St Benedict's**

7.00 pm **Mass at St Oswald's**

In addition, small packets of ash and a prayer sheet have been sent to those who are homebound.

Some Ideas for Lent

1) Prayer

If you've got out of the habit of spending a few minutes in prayer each day, why not try and get back into the habit during Lent. It can help to 'book it in', as it were. Don't bite off more than you can chew – a few minutes is enough either to read the Gospel of the day and think about it, or simply to sit quietly... perhaps talk to the Lord in your own words, pray for someone, or just enjoy the silence. Prayer is simply about keeping in touch with our Lord like we keep in touch with family and friends.

Something that may help are the annual publications – 'Lent Extra' and 'Walk With Me'. You will find copies at the front of church and they're free. There's also a Lenten Calendar for children.

2) Fasting

Going without a meal or something we enjoy can be good for us. It makes us think of those who don't have the basic necessities in life and moves us to help where we can.

3) Almsgiving

Some opportunities to give to charity:

a) **CAFOD** – the Catholic international aid agency works to alleviate poverty and suffering in developing countries: www.cafod.org.uk

b) **Nugent** – a registered charity which cares, educates and protects vulnerable children, young people and adults through schools, care homes, community and social work services across the Archdiocese: www.wearenenugent.org

c) **Mary's Meals** provides chronically hungry children with one meal every school day, encouraging education that can lift them out of poverty in later life: www.marysmeals.org.uk

d) **Parish Caritas** – donations are used weekly to help those who are struggling in our own community.

The purpose of doing something for Lent isn't about trying to achieve something perfectly, rather it's about trying to become a little bit more like Jesus in our daily lives. So, if you mess up, don't give up, simply try again, or try something else. It's the trying that matters.

Parish Readers

Finally, I invite all those who read at Mass to come together for a short meeting at St Benedict's this Thursday, 23 February, 7.00 – 8.00 pm.

With my prayers,

Fr Dave

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)

Wednesdays: 10.15 – 10.45 am at St Benedict's

Saturdays: After the 4.30 pm Mass at St Oswald's
Confession is also available on request.

5) **St Benedict's Church** is open for private prayer: Monday to Friday, 9.30 am – 3.00 pm.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 19 February 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Day of Prayer for the Unemployed</i>	10.30 am Mass <i>(including Children's Liturgy)</i> The Parishioners	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Moiria King 8.30 am Mass Carole Lawless
Monday 20 February		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 21 February	12.30 pm Funeral Mass Ella O'Kane	11.00 am Mass Mary Felskie
Ash Wednesday, 22 February <i>Day of Fasting & Abstinence</i>	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass People of Turkey & Syria	7.00 pm Mass Josie & Norman Barratt
Thursday 23 February		2.00 pm Funeral Mass Mary Ann McKenna 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 24 February	11.00 am Mass Peace in Ukraine	
Saturday 25 February		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Margaret Inkersole
Sunday 26 February 1st Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am Mass Laura Bolman	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

12.02.23	£713.75	(£357.20 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£122.07	(£98.99 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£119.33	
Total	£955.15	
Appeal	£1117.02	(Let The Children Live)
Donations	£127.16	(Funerals)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

VIGIL FOR UKRAINE

This Friday, 24 February, marks one year since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There will be a Vigil beginning at 4.30 pm on the plaza of the Metropolitan Cathedral which will include speakers representing a range of faiths, followed by Evensong at the Anglican Cathedral at 5.30 pm concluding with a choir of Ukrainian singers and space to reflect and light candles (until 7.00 pm). For full details, visit the Archdiocesan website: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

WARM SPACES AT ST BENEDICT'S

(Food, drinks and good company)

Tuesdays 12.00 – 2.00 pm in the Parish Centre
Wednesdays 12.00 – 2.00 pm in Church
Thursdays 5.00 – 7.00 pm in the Parish Centre

LGBTQ+ CATHOLICS

Mass with LGBTQ+ Catholics and friends at 2.00 pm next Sunday, 26 February, at St Bede's, Widnes WA8 6EL followed by a social gathering. All are welcome.

FIRST COMMUNION 2023

Last call for children in Year 4 who are NOT at a Catholic School. Have you filled in an application form? Please contact Fr Dave this week. Thanks.

A very warm welcome to Fr Bruno Lepeu who is visiting our Hong Kong parishioners this week.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23 Matthew 5: 38-48
Weekdays	Ordinary Time: Year 1, Week 7 Lent begins on Wednesday

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

Catherine Donaldson, John Hughes (Vietnam), June Fallon, Tracey Hand, Jean Jones, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Margaret Mobbs, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park), Pendar (a little Iranian boy).

Those who have died recently, especially:

Ella O'Kane, Mary Ann McKenna and Rory Cullen.