

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**1st Sunday of Lent (A)
26 February 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

CAFOD's Lent Fast Day

This coming Friday, 3 March, is CAFOD's Lent Fast Day – one of two days in the year when we go without a meal, or something we enjoy, and give what we save in this way to the poorest of the poor. Giving to CAFOD means our Church network can respond quickly to emergencies, like the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Please take an envelope home with you today and bring it back next weekend. Alternatively, you can donate online here: www.cafod.org.uk/give

**Plant in us, Lord, seeds of solidarity,
so that, rejoicing in your gifts,
we may cherish your presence
in each other and all creation.**

Root us, Lord, in compassion and justice.

**Pour your Spirit down like gentle rain,
softening our hearts,**

washing away division and selfishness.

Cultivate in us, Lord, attentiveness to your call.

**Give us hope to dream of a better world
and strength to play our part to make it a reality.**

**Grow in us, Lord, your ways of peace and courage,
so that, in this time of Lent,**

**we may bear witness to your love,
revealed to us in Jesus.**

Amen.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. This year, it's our turn to host the ecumenical

service for the World Day of Prayer which we'll do at St Oswald's this Friday (3 March) at 7.30 pm. All are very welcome. For more information about the day: www.wwdp.org.uk

Deanery Synodal Council

The Deanery Synodal Council is one of the fruits of Archdiocesan Synod. The Council is made up of reps from each parish in the Deanery and has been meeting every other month since last July. So far, much of the work of the Council has been learning about how to become a Synodal Church.

During Lent, parish reps have been tasked with holding listening sessions in their parishes. The listening sessions in our parish will take place after the weekend Masses on 18/19 March and will last about an hour. I do hope some parishioners will be able to stay and take part in the sessions like you did in preparation for the Archdiocesan Synod. Those sessions were immensely fruitful, and I dare say the ones in March will be too.

Rite of Election

Andrew Bate's grandson, Mason, has been coming to the 8.30 am Mass with his grandad for the last 12 months and has asked to be baptised. So, this afternoon, I will have the joy of presenting him to the Archbishop during the Rite of Election in the Cathedral, along with all the other adults who want to be received into the Church at Easter. Joining Mason at the Easter Vigil will be two members of the Deaf Community who will also be received into the Church. Please keep Mason in your prayers today. Many thanks.

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 26 February 1st Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am Mass Laura Bolman	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Margaret Inkersole 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 27 February		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 28 February		11.00 am Mass Rita Devine
Wednesday 1 March Feast of St David, Patron of Wales	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Maureen Eden 11.45 am Stations of the Cross	
Thursday 2 March		11.00 am Mass Harry Roe 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 3 March CAFOD's Lent Fast Day	11.00 am Mass Private Intention (LISC)	7.30 pm World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service
Saturday 4 March		4.30 pm First Communion Preparation Mass Anne Rowlands
Sunday 5 March 2nd Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am Mass <i>(including Children's Liturgy)</i> Amelia Baylen	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

19.02.23 £768.33 (£264.23 Gift Aid)
 Standing Orders £125.00 (£100.00 Gift Aid)
 Digital Giving £134.50
Total £1027.83
 Fundraising £49.51 *(Chocolate Sunday)*
Thank you so much for your generosity.

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 today (Sunday) at 2.00 pm in St Bede's, Widnes WA8 6EL followed by a social gathering. All are welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place this week on Wednesday at 11.45 am (St Benedict's) and Thursday at 7.00 pm (St Oswald's).

CONFIRMATION

Young people in Year 8 are invited to sign up for the Sacrament of Confirmation by visiting the website www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk and clicking on 'Register for Confirmation' at the top right-hand side of the page. Registration is open until **17 March 2023**. Please encourage children and grandchildren who are in Year 8. Many thanks.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today 1st Sunday of Lent (A)
Readings Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7
 Romans 5: 12-19
 Matthew 4: 1-11
Weekdays Lent – Week 1

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, Vera Brindle, Ian Buist, 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:

Rory Cullen, Ellen Kinney, Georgina Lomax, Hilda Creagan.