

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**3rd Sunday of Lent (A)  
12 March 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### First Communion

A very warm welcome to the children in Year 4 at St Benedict's, and their families, who will be joining us for Mass this weekend as they begin their preparation for First Communion.

Next Sunday, there will be a meeting for children and their parents who are NOT at Catholic Schools but who wish to celebrate First Communion. The meeting will take place at St Benedict's at 12.30 pm.

### "I was a stranger and you did not make me welcome"

Those words of Jesus in St Matthew's Gospel (*cf. chapter 25*) immediately came to mind when the Government proposed its Illegal Immigration Bill on Tuesday. If you read my blog on the Parish website, then you'll know of my opposition to the Bill.

The Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, Bishop Paul McAleenan, spoke for many of us when he made the following statement on Thursday:

"Everyone who makes a dangerous journey across the Channel to build a better life here has a name, a face, and a story. People are driven from their homes by poverty, conflict, persecution, natural disasters, or other factors that prevent their flourishing. Many have links to the UK or family members already living here. Yet, far too often, there are no safe routes open to them.

While we all wish to end dangerous Channel crossings, this new legislation treats migrants and refugees as a problem to be solved rather than brothers and sisters towards whom we have responsibilities. Establishing more safe routes, and genuinely understanding people's individual circumstances are essential to meeting these.

As Christians we call for the human person, made in the image and likeness of God, to be put at the heart of public policy."

### Chrism Mass

This year's Chrism Mass will take place in the Cathedral on Wednesday 5 April at 7.30 pm. If you would like a place on the coach, please sign the list at the back of church. The coach will depart from St Oswald's at 6.15 pm and St Benedict's at 6.25 pm. The Mass usually finishes by 9.15 pm so we should be back by 10.00 pm. If you are able to contribute towards the cost of the coach, I suggest £5 per adult.

### Final Call for Confirmation

Young people in Year 8, who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, are invited to visit the website [www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk) and click 'Register for Confirmation' in the top right-hand corner of the page. **Registration closes this Friday, 17 March 2023.**

### Listening Sessions

Finally, there will 'listening sessions' after each Mass next weekend like the ones we had in preparation for the Archdiocesan Synod. The purpose of these sessions is to help the Deanery Synodal Council in discerning a way forward in our Deanery. I do hope some of you will be able to stay for a short while and share your thoughts. Refreshments will be provided.

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)

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 – 4.00 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 12 March</b> 3rd Sunday of Lent (A)	<b>10.30 am First Communion</b> <b>Presentation Mass</b> Leo Wall	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Tom Fiddler <b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners
<b>Monday 13 March</b>		<b>7.00 pm Prayer Group</b>
<b>Tuesday 14 March</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Ian Whelan
<b>Wednesday 15 March</b>	<b>10.15 am Exposition</b> <b>11.00 am Mass</b> Private Intention (JW) <b>11.45 am Stations of the Cross</b>	
<b>Thursday 16 March</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Peter Newton <b>7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Friday 17 March</b> Feast of St Patrick, Patron of Ireland	<b>10.15 am Funeral Service</b> Georgina Lomax	
<b>Saturday 18 March</b>		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Frank Hawley
<b>Sunday 19 March</b> 4th Sunday of Lent (A) <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> <i>(including Children's Liturgy)</i> Olive Elizabeth Swift	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

05.03.23	£1093.58	(£291.25 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£189.50	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1412.77</b>	
CAFOD	£847.00	

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

### SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, there will be a second collection to support Nugent, the Archdiocesan caring service.

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Offertory envelopes for the new tax year are available as you leave church. The boxes with names on are Gift Aid envelopes; the boxes without names on are non-Gift Aid for anyone to use.

### LENT GROUP

There is a Lent Group at Padgate Methodist Church every Thursday in Lent at 10.30 am. Each session 'stands alone', so it's not necessary to attend every session. Everyone is welcome to come along.

### WARM SPACES AT ST BENEDICT'S

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

### LADIES GROUP

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will take place at 8.00 pm on Thursday 23 March in the lounge at St Oswald's Parish Centre.

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent (A)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Ezekiel 17: 3-7 Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 John 4: 5-42
<b>Weekdays</b>	Lent – Week 3

### 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, Ged Hughes, 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, Sr Maire Moms, Glenys Pegg, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park), Pendar (a little Iranian boy).

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

Georgina Lomax and Robert O'Connor.