

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**4th Sunday of Lent (A)
19 March 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Is it over?

On this Sunday three years ago, we were advised not to gather to celebrate Mass although our churches could be open for people to come and pray. The following day, the Prime Minister announced the first lockdown which changed our lives dramatically.

Three years on, things are much better. While there has been a staggering number of deaths in our own country and across the world, the vaccines together with other measures (like wearing face coverings, good ventilation, and hand hygiene) has meant that many of us have not become seriously ill. Sadly, there's been an incredible amount of misinformation which has been unhelpful and arguable prolonged the pandemic.

While the pandemic is not over, scientists are now saying they think it will be over this year as the virus enters an endemic stage. Let's hope so. If there is another wave this year, we are much more prepared to initiate measures that will help to keep everyone safe.

Listening Sessions

This weekend, there will 'listening sessions' after each Mass 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 for 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.

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.

Holy Week Penance Service

Our annual Service of Reconciliation in preparation for the great feast of Easter will take place at St Oswald's on Tuesday 4 April at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

Love the Stranger

This week, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales released a publication entitled, 'Love the Stranger'. The document powerfully articulates our Christian duty to those who come to our shores because of violence, war, persecution or poverty in their homelands. In sharp contrast to the rhetoric we've heard recently, 'Love the Stranger' reminds us that these people are human beings like ourselves, who have suffered in ways we can scarcely imagine and are crying out to us for help. You can download the document from my blog on the Parish website or at: www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger

Warrington Bombing Anniversary

Tomorrow (Monday) marks the 30th anniversary of the bombing in Warrington in 1993. There will be a remembrance event in the town centre at midday with a minute's silence at 12.20 pm. We remember especially Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball, their families, together with the many who were injured.

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 – 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
Sunday 19 March 4th Sunday of Lent (A) <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	10.30 am Mass <i>(including Children's Liturgy)</i> Olive Elizabeth Swift	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Frank Hawley 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 20 March St Joseph, Husband of Mary		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 21 March		11.00 am Mass Joseph Cann
Wednesday 22 March	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Fr Tony Slingo 11.45 am Stations of the Cross	
Thursday 23 March	9.00 am Funeral Service Robert O'Connor	11.00 am Mass Bernard Steele 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 24 March	11.00 am Mass Vito Re	
Saturday 25 March The Annunciation of the Lord	1.00 pm Stations of the Cross in Cantonese	4.30 pm Vigil Mass Anne Rowlands
Sunday 26 March 5th Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am First Communion Preparation Mass The Parishioners	8.30 am Mass Mary Gamble

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

12.03.23	£819.47	(£284.90 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£103.00 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£206.50	
Total	£1155.66	
Donation	£100.00	(Irish Club Service)
Parish Caritas	£22.50	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today, 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.

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

LADIES GROUP

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

Happy Mother's Day!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	4th Sunday of Lent (A)
<i>Readings</i>	1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41
Weekdays	Lent – Week 4

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, Vera Brindle, Ian Buist, Peter Burke, Carol Feeney, Malcolm Hackwell, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Ged Hughes, Thomas Ireland, Susan Keating, Peter Milner, Trina Mouldsdale, 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:

Robert O'Connor, Jack Disley, Kathleen Riley, Baby Owen.