

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**Pentecost Sunday (A)**  
**28 May 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### First Communions

A very warm welcome to the children and young people who are celebrating their First Communion with us at St Benedict's this weekend, and to their families and friends – some of whom have travelled great distances to be here. Next Saturday, the last group of children will celebrate their First Communion during the Saturday Vigil Mass at St Oswald's.

### Confirmations

Last Sunday, parishioners in Year 8 at High School met with Deacon Tony and I in preparation for their Confirmation at the beginning of July. We have twenty young people who want to be confirmed this year. They will join us for Mass on the weekend of 10/11 June so that you can meet and pray for them. On 17 June, we will be taking them to visit our Cathedral in Liverpool. You may think this wouldn't interest young people, but you would be wrong. Every time I take a group of young people to the Cathedral, they are fascinated by the building and completely absorbed – so much so that it is always difficult to get them back on the coach for a trip to McDonalds! Finally, we will meet with them again on 25 June for a BBQ at St Oswald's and a brief rehearsal in church.

### Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers

This coming Thursday, 40 people – including 15 parishioners – will leave Warrington in the early hours for a nine-day Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers in France, ably led by Chris Sykes. Please pray for them just as they will be praying for us. If you would like Chris to take any petitions to the Grotto in Lourdes,

please place your petitions in an envelope marked 'Petition' and hand them into the Priory by Wednesday morning at the latest. If you wish to make a donation to Lourdes with your petition, please place this in a separate envelope marked 'Lourdes Donation' because the petition envelopes are not opened when they are placed in the Grotto.

### Dean's Meeting

Last Wednesday, the Deans of the Archdiocese met for 24 hours at Ince Benet. Ince Benet is a small monastery in the woods of Ince Blundell founded by Fr Tom Cullinan OSB in 1980. Since Fr Tom's death in 2019, the monastery has been completely refurbished as a place of prayer, reflection and renewal. It was a beautiful setting for the Deans to meet and reflect on their role. Living in the town, I found it simply amazing to stand outside at midnight – there were no streetlights, no cars, no people walking home, no noise at all. It left me thinking that some of you might enjoy the same sometime. Perhaps we might organise 24 hours away sometime. You can read more about Ince Benet here: <https://incebenet.co.uk>

### Half-Term

Finally, the schools broke up for half-term on Friday. This time is a much-needed break for the staff and children of our schools who work so hard. I hope they have a good break and come back refreshed for the final term of the school year.

*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 28 May</b> Pentecost Sunday (A)	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> <i>(with First Communions)</i> For all those taking GCSE's <b>12.30 pm First Communion Mass</b>	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Michael Clifton <b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners
<b>Monday 29 May</b> Our Lady, Mother of the Church		<b>7.00 pm Prayer Group</b>
<b>Tuesday 30 May</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Hennessey Family
<b>Wednesday 31 May</b> Feast of the Visitation of Mary	<b>10.15 am Exposition</b> <b>11.00 am Mass</b> Charles Eason	
<b>Thursday 1 June</b> Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest		<b>12.00 noon Deanery Mass</b> <i>at St Michael's, Ditton</i> <b>7.00 pm Novena &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Friday 2 June</b>	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Private Intention (LISC)	
<b>Saturday 3 June</b> St Charles Lwanga & Companions		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> <i>(with First Communions)</i> Alexander Finney
<b>Sunday 4 June</b> Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (A)	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> <i>(including Children's Liturgy)</i> John Vaughan	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

21.05.23	£680.93	(£309.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.00	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£154.50	(£34.50 Gift Aid)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£964.43</b>	
2nd Collection	£257.07	(Communications)
Donation	£500.00	

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

### PENTECOST

Today, the fifty days of Easter culminate in the great feast of Pentecost. We remember how Jesus, after returning to his Father in heaven, sent the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sent them out to proclaim the Good News of God's love to the whole of creation. This event marked the beginning of the Church.

Two thousand years later, the mission of the Church remains the same and is enshrined in our own Archdiocesan Mission Statement: *"Taking to heart the last words of the Lord Jesus, we will go into the world to proclaim the Good News to the whole of creation."*

But how do we do this in 2023? We are facing a new reality. Most Christians in the UK no longer go to church, so our congregations are dwindling. This, in turn, impacts on our capacity to keep all the churches we have. We have fewer priests and those we have are getting older and more and more is expected of them. This is why we had a Synod in the Archdiocese in 2021. The fruit of this was a Pastoral Plan. Our Deanery Synodal Council, made up of reps from each

parish, is meeting every other month to unpack this plan and discern a way forward for us.

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday (A)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13 John 20: 19-23
<b>Weekdays</b>	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 8

### 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, 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, Peter McKeown, Jean Murphy, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts.

*Other Parishes*

Catherine Donaldson, John Hughes (Vietnam), June Fallon, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Margaret Mobbs, Sr Maire Moms, Glenys Pegg, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park).

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

Bernadette Vaughan, Tom Ireland & Hazel Molyneux.