

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
18 June 2023

My dear sisters and brothers,

Day for Life

Today is the annual 'Day for Life' – the day in the Church's calendar when we celebrate the gift of life from conception to natural death. This year, the theme is 'Listen to Her'. Often the voices of women who have had an abortion are silent in the Church and in society. By encouraging women to share their experience, it is hoped to break this silence and offer further opportunities for healing and reconciliation. There will be a Second Collection to support the Church's 'Day for Life' projects. For more information and resources: www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life

Refugee Week

Today marks the beginning of 'Refugee Week'. The week aims to highlight the plight of refugees and asylum seekers, and to celebrate the contribution they make to our country.

Many people in Warrington have gone above and beyond in the welcome and support they have provided to those coming to live in our town, as well as reaching out to those still stuck in refugee camps abroad. Much of this has been coordinated through the local charity 'Care UK' (based in the Cockhedge Centre): www.careukcharity.org.uk/

Sadly, the same can't be said of some of our political leaders who, I feel, use immigration as a scapegoat for other problems. This week, **Lord Dubs** took to Twitter and challenged the current narrative. With great humility, he said: "May I correct some inaccuracies? It is not illegal to seek asylum, however you arrive in a country. There are no "illegal routes" for asylum seekers (Refugee Convention 1951, which we signed). Migrants are not the same as asylum seekers. Asylum seekers are fleeing war, torture, violence. Conflating the two is deliberately misleading.

"There are indeed "hundreds of thousands" of migrants in the UK (606K in 2022, to be exact) – the majority of whom work in the health care sector or are students, or families of students. In 2022, 45,000 asylum seekers came to the UK in small boats. In 2022, France processed 156,455 claims for asylum and the UK 76,000. So, France took twice the number that the UK did. The UK is below average among EU countries for asylum applications per head of population, ranking 16th among 27 countries."

Warrington Council's **Department of Wellbeing**, headed up by Di White, has been exceptional in the help they have provided to asylum seekers and refugees. This Friday, 23 June, they are hosting a 'Refugee Celebration & Information Event' at The Gateway in Sankey Street, 1.00 – 4.00 pm. If you would like to join me at this event, could you let me know by Tuesday so that I can book you a place?

Padgate Walking Day

Finally, Padgate Walking Day takes place next Saturday, 24 June. Two things: 1) John Lawless will be looking for marshals and help to carry the banners and statues – please encourage family members and friends to help. 2) Last year, some people spilled over into the road outside St Oswald's frightening the children in the procession and refused to cooperate with the marshals. I'm sure a gentle word encouraging good behaviour wouldn't go amiss.

*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 18 June 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Day of Life</i>	10.30 am Mass <i>(including Children's Liturgy)</i> Amelia Baylen	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Peter Wright 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 19 June		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 20 June		9.30 am Mass Margaret Morris
Wednesday 21 June St Aloysius Gonzaga	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass In Thanksgiving 12.45 pm Funeral Mass Frances Hadcroft	
Thursday 22 June Feast of SS John Fisher & Thomas More		11.00 am Mass Lynn & Warren Duffy 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 23 June	11.00 am Mass Stephen Bradshaw	
Saturday 24 June The Birth of St John the Baptist		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Rita Devine
Sunday 25 June 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)	10.30 am Mass Tom Ireland	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

11.06.23	£821.27	(£312.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.00	(£89.00 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£199.50	(£84.50 Gift Aid)
Total	£1149.77	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

WARRINGTON WALKING DAY

Warrington Walking Day takes place on Friday 30 June. As usual, we need help carrying the statues and marshals for the procession. If you can help, please sign the list on the noticeboard. Many thanks.

HALE LIGHT ORCHESTRA

An afternoon of light orchestral music from stage, screen and radio on Sunday 25 June at 1.30 pm in Padgate Methodist Church. £5 adults, children free. Pay on the door. All welcome.

LOURDES CENTENARY YEAR 2023

Mass to mark the Archdiocesan Centenary Pilgrimage to Lourdes on Sunday 25 June at 5.00 pm in the Cathedral. The Mass will be an opportunity for pilgrims past and present to come together to celebrate this milestone. All are welcome.

POPE FRANCIS

"Jesus is the hand of the Father who never abandons us, the strong and faithful hand of the Father who always and only wants our good" (14 June 2023).

Happy Father's Day!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Exodus 19: 2-6 Romans 5: 6-11 Matthew 9: 36-10: 8
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 11

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, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park).

Those who have died recently, especially:

Councillor Diana Friend, Frances Hadcroft, Hazel Molyneux, Frank Billington and Teresa