

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (A)

St Benedict's – 11 June 2023

Welcome

A special welcome to the young people who are preparing for Confirmation, and their families, who are joining us for Mass this weekend.

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

I am the bread of life (629) verses 1-3

Greeting & Introduction

Penitential Act

Gloria

- Father, we adore you,
lay our lives before you.
How we love you.**
- Jesus, we adore you...**
- Spirit, we adore you...**

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Collect

Lord God,
our ancestors journeyed through the desert
where you fed them with manna;
and with water flowing from the rock
you quenched their burning thirst.

Care for us and inspire us, your people,
so that we, though many, may become one
and all who hunger and thirst
may be nourished and refreshed at our table.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

(Deut 8: 2-3, 14-16)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not become proud of heart. Do not forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Alleluia!

- Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion.
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
he has blessed your children within you.
- He has granted peace in your borders;
with the best of wheat he fills you.
He sends forth his command to the earth;
swiftly runs his word!

Second Reading

(1 Cor 10: 16-17)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(John 6: 51-58)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread

which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;

and the bread that I shall give is my flesh,

for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.
For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.
This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:
they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Presentation of Candidates

The young people who are preparing for Confirmation are invited to come forward with their parents.

To the young people:

My dear young friends, we are delighted to see you here today and to receive your request for Confirmation. So I ask you:

Do you want to be enrolled as candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation?

Young People: We do.

To the parents:

Thank you for all the love and support that you have shown to your children. Your encouragement and example have brought them to this moment in their lives.

Are you willing to continue to give them all the help and support they will need as they prepare for Confirmation?

Parents: We are.

To the congregation:

Are you ready to support these young people and their families, encourage them and help them by your prayers?

All: We are.

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn: In bread we bring you (609)

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,
may the bread and cup we offer
bring your Church the unity and peace they signify.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Mass of Hope – Bernadette Farrell (559)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy Lord, Holy Lord, God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is he
who comes in the name,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Please exchange the Sign of Peace with those around you in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

Communion

Music: Ave verum corpus – W.A. Mozart (1791)

Hymn: Soul of my saviour (938)

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you give us your body and blood in the eucharist
as a sign that even now we share your life.
May we come to share it completely in the kingdom
where you live for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Alleluia, sing to Jesus (644) verses 1, 3-4

The **Offertory Collection** takes place as you leave church – a basket will be available, or you can use the 'Tap & Go' facility. This collection is the main source of income for the parish.

Acknowledgements

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