

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
20 August 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Persecution of Christians

You may have heard in the media this week that Christian homes and church buildings in the Punjab region of northern Pakistan have been targeted by extremists after a Christian cleaner was accused of desecrating the Qur'an and insulting the Prophet of Islam. Hundreds of Christians have fled their homes to avoid the violent mob attacks.

Bishop Tom Neylon, Lead Bishop for Asia for the Bishops' Conference, has written to the Bishop of the Diocese of Faisalabad, where the wave of attacks took place, to assure the Catholic community of our prayers and support.

Speaking during the week, Bishop Tom added: "Some reports from the country suggest that local Muslims helped Christians escape by warning them ahead of the attacks by extremists. We are deeply thankful to all those who risked their own safety to help protect others."

Walking Pilgrimages

Phil McCarthy is trying to rebuild the culture of walking pilgrimages that has somewhat been lost in England and Wales. "England is quite unusual in that pilgrimage was actually banned by Act of Parliament in 1538 by Thomas Cromwell. So we lost the shrines, very often the cathedrals, and we lost the religious infrastructure along the way."

Phil has created 'Pilgrim Ways' – a digital resource that provides walking routes to key pilgrimage sites. "My idea is to create a 'pilgrim way' in each Catholic diocese – from the cathedral of that diocese to one or more shrines within the same diocese." Phil is gradually walking the routes and adding directions so people can follow them easily. To access the routes and resources, go to: www.pilgrimways.org.uk

Do we need the Church?

Recently, a lady shared with me her sadness that her children no longer come with her to church. They often ask her, "What's the point?" I shared a little story with her that I heard many years ago...

"Two friends got together one evening for dinner. One was a priest and the other was a farmer. After they had finished their meal, they sat beside the fire talking. Eventually they began to talk about being a Christian in today's world, with all its pressures and hassles. The farmer asked his friend, 'Do you really think it's necessary to go to church?' The priest, without saying a word, got up from his chair, picked up a pair of tongs and lifted one of the coals out of the fire and put it in front of the hearth. They both sat in silence and watched the piece of coal lose its red glow and eventually go out. The priest then got up, picked up the coal, put it back in the fire and they watched it slowly ignite and regain its bright red glow. Then the farmer turned to the priest and said, 'I take your point'."

*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 20 August 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)	10.30 am Mass Annis & John Ward	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass John & Peggy McGinty 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 21 August St Pius X, Pope		No Prayer Group <i>(Resumes in September)</i>
Tuesday 22 August The Queenship of Mary		11.00 am Mass Rita Devine
Wednesday 23 August	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Red Evans	
Thursday 24 August Feast of St Bartholomew, Apostle		11.00 am Mass Tom Fiddler <i>(No Novena & Benediction)</i>
Friday 25 August	11.00 am Mass Souls in Purgatory	
Saturday 26 August Blessed Dominic Barberi		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Bill Moss
Sunday 27 August 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)	10.30 am Mass Tom Barnard	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

13.08.23	£934.23	(£451.25 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£169.50	(£69.50 Gift Aid)
Total	£1233.42	
Donations	£127.00	
Parish Caritas	£112.10	
Charity	£45.97	(Let The Children Live)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

HOT DOGS!

There will be 'Hot Dogs' on sale after the 10.30 am Mass next Sunday. It's a fundraiser, so hot dogs will be £1 each.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

The Annual Pilgrimage Mass to the Holy Hand of St Edmund Arrowsmith takes place next Sunday, 27 August, at 3.00 pm in the Church of St Oswald & St Edmund Arrowsmith, Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield WN4 9NP. All welcome.

CANTONESE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

A warm invitation is extended to individuals aged 18 and above who are interested in exploring and deepening their understanding of the Catholic faith. All fellow believers are also welcome to join this journey of Catholic faith: 5 September 2023 – 19 May 2024. The programme consists of two components: Zoom Meetings on Tuesdays (8.00 – 9.30 pm) and physical gatherings on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Cathedral. The language medium is Cantonese. For all enquiries, please contact Flora on 07403 489931.

"Great is his love, love without end!"

(Psalm 135)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7 Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32 Matthew 15: 21-28
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 20

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, Ian Buist, Peter Burke, 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, Dave Ferris, Betty Fiddler, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Peter McKeown, Jean Murphy, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts.

Other Parishes

Marie Barnes, Catherine Donaldson, June Fallon, Pauline Heywood, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Margaret Mobbs, Sr Maire Moms, Fr Tony Slingo, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park).

Those who have died recently, especially:

Derek Lawton (Tex Coyne's brother)