

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
27 August 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Season of Creation

During the recent pandemic, many of us were aghast at those who were sceptical about Covid-19 and saw it as some kind of conspiracy. Sadly, there are plenty of people who view climate change in a similar way. However, the evidence is indisputable. To hear one of the Republican presidential candidates dismiss climate change as a 'hoax' this week goes to show that there is still breathtaking ignorance about this crisis.

In 2015, Pope Francis issued an encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*, on caring for our common home, and established the Season of Creation in the Church's year. This annual season begins on Friday, 1 September, with the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' and runs until the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. We will mark the beginning of this special time during the Masses next weekend.

This week, Pope Francis announced that he was writing a second part to his encyclical to update it on current issues, especially the extreme weather events that we are witnessing. He said: "We must never forget that the younger generations have the right to receive a beautiful and livable world from us, and that this implies that we have a grave responsibility towards creation which we have received from the generous hands of God."

Deanery Synodal Council

Last month, the Deanery Synodal Council marked its first anniversary. The group, made up of

representatives from each parish in the Deanery, has been meeting for twelve months to explore and understand Synodality and implement the Pastoral Plan which emerged from our own Archdiocesan Synod. I will write more about what we've been doing and the progress we are making in the coming weeks.

*With my prayers,
Fr Dave*

LOURDES REUNION MASS

St Mary's, Lowe House, in St Helens will be holding a Lourdes Reunion Mass on Sunday 10 September at 5.00 pm. All are welcome, especially those who went to Lourdes this year.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is a national qualification awarded by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales, for the teaching of Religious Education in our Catholic primary and secondary schools, as well as for parish catechesis. The course duration is two years and requires online virtual participation in eight modules. Each module has up to five sessions. A session lasts for a maximum of two hours, and all sessions take place after school. Full details, including contacts, can be found in the information booklet at the back of church and on the Parish website. This is a thriving course – it begins towards the end of September, and you'd be so welcome!

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 27 August 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) | 10.30 am Mass Tom Barnard | (Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Bill Moss 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners |
| Monday 28 August St Augustine | | No Prayer Group <i>(Resumes in September)</i> |
| Tuesday 29 August The Passion of St John the Baptist | | 11.00 am Mass Patricia Hughes |
| Wednesday 30 August St Edmund Arrowsmith | 10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Nadine Davies | |
| Thursday 31 August | | 11.00 am Mass Frank Hawley <i>(No Novena & Benediction)</i> |
| Friday 1 September World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation | 11.00 am Mass In honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel | |
| Saturday 2 September | | 4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners |
| Sunday 3 September 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) | 10.30 am Mass Vera Brindle | 8.30 am Mass Colin Lloyd |

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 20.08.23 | £853.75 | (£292.00 Gift Aid) |
| Standing Orders | £129.69 | (£89.31 Gift Aid) |
| Digital Giving | £179.50 | (£94.50 Gift Aid) |
| Total | £1162.94 | |
| Parish Caritas | £39.55 | |

Thank you so much for your generosity.

HOT DOGS!

'Hot Dogs' will be on sale (£1 each) after the 10.30 am Mass at St Benedict's today (Sunday).

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Latest events from across the Archdiocese can be found on the Archdiocesan website – click on 'Menu' and then 'Events' at www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

CAREERS

The latest vacancies from the Archdiocese can be found on the Archdiocesan website – click on 'Menu' and then 'Careers' at www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

CATHEDRAL EDUCATION SERVICE

Are you a retired or part time qualified teacher? You could be part of the Cathedral's Education Service team! Come and help hundreds of children and young

people learn about our Cathedral. For more information, email: education@metcathedral.org.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Today | 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) |
| <i>Readings</i> | Isaiah 22: 19-23 Romans 11: 33-36 Matthew 16: 13-20 |
| Weekdays | Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 21 |

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, Ian Buist, Malcolm Hackwell, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Ged Hughes, 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, Dave Ferris, Betty Fiddler, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Ron Jones, Peter McKeown, Jean Murphy, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts.

Other Parishes

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

Those who have died recently, especially:

Peter Burke