

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



A Mighty River

Amos 5: 24

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Mass for the Care of Creation
3 September 2023

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

All creatures of our God and King (694) verses 1-4

Greeting & Introduction

Rite of Welcome

Litany of Repentance

O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches and your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals. Open our eyes to see.

Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering. Open our eyes to see.

Christ, have mercy. **R. Christ, have mercy.**

God our Maker, move us by the wonder of creation to repent and care more deeply; move us to grieve the damage to the climate and the loss of life so that we may learn to cherish and protect your world.

Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

(Adapted from 'Holy Ground' by N Paynter & H Boothroyd)

Collect

God of the universe,
you graciously give us all good gifts.
Teach us to care for the earth:
to till the soils responsibly, to keep the air pure,
to free the waters from pollution,
to harvest the warmth of the sun,
to protect the climate
and to respect the rights of all species.
May we share the gifts of your goodness with all.
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

(Jeremiah 20: 7-9)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord,
and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

- 1 O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.
- 2 You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.

Second Reading

(Romans 12: 1-2)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Matthew 16: 21-27)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord;' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an

obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
God made flesh,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

(Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

St O: All things bright and beautiful – John Rutter

St B: All things bright and beautiful (685)

Prayer over the Offerings

Creator God,
may these gifts,
the fruits of the earth and the work of human hands,
become for us the body and blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever.

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

Notre père	Tève Mūsų
Vater unser	Ojcie nasz
Padre nostro	我們的父親

Sign of Peace

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

Communion

Song: Eat this bread (633)

Prayer after Communion

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

St O: Let us with a gladsome mind (707)

St B: Fill your hearts with joy and gladness (703)

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. Many thanks for your generosity.

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