

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

*Home Mission Sunday*  
St Oswald's – 17 September 2023

### Introductory Rites

#### Gathering Song

Praise my soul the King of heaven (807)

#### Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

#### Collect

Look upon us, O God,  
Creator and ruler of all things,  
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,  
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.  
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

*(Ecclesiasticus 27: 33-28: 9)*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,  
and both are found with the sinner.  
He who exacts vengeance  
will experience the vengeance of the Lord,  
who keeps strict account of sin.  
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,  
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.  
If a man nurses anger against another,  
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?  
Showing no pity for a man like himself,  
can he then plead for his own sins?  
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;  
who will forgive him his sins?  
Remember the last things, and stop hating,  
remember dissolution and death,  
and live by the commandments.  
Remember the commandments,  
and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;  
remember the covenant of the Most High,  
and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 103

**The Lord is kind and merciful,  
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.
- 2 He pardons all your iniquities,  
heals all your ills.  
He redeems your life from destruction,  
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

### Second Reading

*(Romans 14: 7-9)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

#### Gospel

*(Matthew 18: 21-35)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

### Profession of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Bidding Prayers

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

#### Preparation of the Gifts

*Song:* Ubi caritas – Bob Hurd

#### Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord,  
and in your kindness  
accept these, your servants' offerings,  
that what each has offered to the honour of your name  
may serve the salvation of all.

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

Notre père	Tève Mûsû
Vater unser	Ojczy 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

*Chant:* God is forgiveness – Taize (221)

#### Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray,  
take possession of our minds and bodies,  
so that its effects, and not our own desires,  
may always prevail in us.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## Concluding Rite

#### Blessing & Dismissal

#### Final Song

O the love of my Lord (967)

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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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#### Acknowledgements

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