

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

*World Day for Migrants & Refugees
24 September 2023*

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

When I needed a neighbour (888)

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

O Lord, to whom no one is a stranger
and from whose help no one is ever distant,
look with compassion on refugees and exiles,
on segregated persons and on lost children;
restore them, we pray, to a homeland, and
give us a kind heart for the needy and for strangers.
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

(Isaiah 55: 6-9)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord
who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145

The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

- 1 Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
- 2 The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The Lord is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

Second Reading

(Philippians 1: 20-24, 27)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life
or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but
then death would bring me something more; but then
again, if living in this body means doing work which is
having good results – I do not know what I should
choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone
and be with Christ, which would be very much the
better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more
urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be
unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Matthew 20: 1-16)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is
like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers

for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

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: In bread we bring you (609)

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord,
who willed that your Son should lay down his life
to gather into one your scattered children,
grant that this sacrifice of your peace
may bring about a communion of minds and hearts

and an increase in fraternal charity.

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.**

Communion Song

Your ways are not our ways – Francis Patrick O'Brien

Prayer after Communion (Pope Francis)

God, Father Almighty,
grant us the grace to work tirelessly
for justice, solidarity and peace,
so that all your children may enjoy
the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.

Grant us the courage to denounce
all the horrors of our world,
and to combat every injustice
that mars the beauty of your children
and the harmony of our common home.

Sustain us by the power of your Spirit,
so that we can reflect your tender love
to every migrant whom you place in our path,
and to spread in hearts and in every situation
the culture of encounter and of care.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Brother, sister, let me serve you (924)

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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