

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
8 October 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Prisoners' Sunday

Today is Prisoners' Sunday when we pray especially for those in prison and their dependents. Prisoners, people with convictions, together with their children and families, often find themselves on the margins of society because of the stigma associated with imprisonment. Yet Jesus challenges us with his words: "I was in prison, and you came to see me" (Mt 25: 36).

PACT is a national charity supporting prisoners and their families. Website: www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners, their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ, in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Listening to Each Other

This week, the Synod on Synodality began in Rome. All the group sessions begin in the same way that our parish meetings began in preparation for our own Archdiocesan Synod – by listening to each other. Each group member has four minutes to share their thoughts on a particular question. Meanwhile, the other members of the group are asked not to speak or interrupt but to listen attentively as each person speaks.

We don't often listen to each other like this. We're often thinking about what we might say in reply or

interrupt because we have a different point of view. However, if we believe that the Holy Spirit has been given to every person who is baptised, we can miss what the Holy Spirit is saying if we fail to listen to each other. This attentive listening to each other is a hallmark of synodality.

'Laudate Deum'

On Wednesday, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis released a supplement to his 2015 Encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*. Entitled, 'Laudate Deum' ('Praise God'), the Holy Father warns that climate change is undeniable, and its effects are becoming increasingly evident "despite some attempts to minimise or ridicule them" (LD 6). He stresses the urgent need for global cooperation through new multilateral agreements (LD 43) and encourages countries to overcome their selfish positions for the benefit of the global common good (LD 44, 52). You can read the full document on the Vatican website:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html

St Alban's

This Friday (13 October) at 7.00 pm, the Archbishop will be joining the parishioners of Sacred Heart and St Alban's to celebrate the bicentenary of the opening of St Alban's church in 1823. It's a terrific milestone in this day and age. Many congratulations to Canon Christopher and all at St Alban's.

*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 8 October 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Prisoners' Sunday</i>	10.30 am Mass The Parishioners	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Vincent Hennessey 8.30 am Mass Stanislaw & Genowefa Matkowski
Monday 9 October St John Henry Newman	<i>Mass at Cardinal Newman High School</i>	7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 10 October		11.00 am Mass Kathleen Murray 2.30 pm Welcome Service for Reception Children
Wednesday 11 October Pope Saint John XXIII	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Canon John Short	
Thursday 12 October		2.00 pm Funeral Mass Rose Marston 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 13 October St Edward the Confessor	11.00 am Mass Fr David O'Kane	
Saturday 14 October		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Tom Fiddler
Sunday 15 October 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)	10.30 am Mass Joan Howl 2.00 pm Blessing of Animals	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

01.10.23	£658.76	(£267.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£116.00	(£81.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£904.45	
Donation	£100.00	
Fundraising	£81.02	(Hot Dogs)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

The annual Blessing of Animals will take place at St Benedict's next Sunday, 15 October, at 2.00 pm. This short service provides an opportunity to thank God for our animal friends, to remember our beloved pets who have died, and to pray for the many animals that suffer in our world. The service lasts about 25 minutes and is followed by some treats for pets and refreshments for their servants! Please let people know about the service, especially those who have pets. Every year, new people turn up who never go to church but who have heard about the service from parishioners.

LGBTQ+ CATHOLICS

Mass with LGBTQ+ Catholics and friends will take place at 2.00 pm today (Sunday) at St Bede's, Appleton Village, Widnes WA8 6EL. All are welcome.

WALSINGHAM 2024

If you would be interested in going to Walsingham next March, please let Ann know on 07773 674059.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 5: 1-7; Philippians 4: 6-9 Matthew 21: 33-43
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 27

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, Sheila Mellor, 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, Mary Harcourt, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Ron Jones, Peter McKeown, Jean Murphy, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Claire Taylor, Ray Toft, Margaret Watts, Margaret Whitlow.

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:

Rose Marston and Jean Jones.