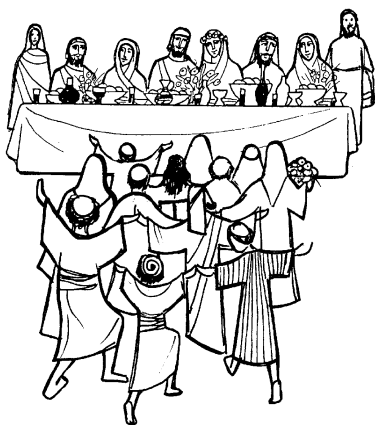


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

15 October 2023

My dear sisters and brothers,

Israel-Hamas War

Following the attack on Israel by Hamas last weekend, I sent an email to Fr Fares Siryani, parish priest of Our Lady of the Rosary in Kerak – one of the parishes we are twinned with in the Holy Land. I told him that we were thinking of him and his parishioners and assured him of our prayers. On Sunday, I received a reply. He said: "It's good to hear from you again. Yes indeed the situation is very bad and difficult. We need a lot of prayers. We need peace and justice for all."

The events of the last seven days have been shocking and deeply disturbing. My daily prayer has been consumed by the suffering of so many innocent people in Israel and Gaza. I particularly feel for the innocent men, women and children in Gaza. They will now bear the consequences of the attack on Israel by Hamas militants. The poverty and suffering in Gaza was already breathtaking before this war – a situation so dire that the UN Secretary General described it as "hell on earth" before this latest escalation.

People seem very happy to pontificate their ignorance about the Holy Land and the present troubles on social media. In addition, too many news outlets seem content to push a particular narrative that is not the whole story. This is incredibly dangerous and encourages people to take sides without knowing the facts. As a result, both Muslims and Jews have been attacked in various countries this week.

Last Sunday, Cardinal Nichols said: "Violence is never a solution. Retribution is never a contribution to peace. Please pray today for that peace. Pray for all who have

lost their lives and for the immediate release of those taken hostage. Pray especially for the small but active Catholic community in Gaza City who at this moment will be reaching out courageously to their neighbours, trying to offer shelter and support."

This week, let us join together in praying for peace – perhaps by saying a decade of the rosary each day. I have no doubt that every prayer is heard, and every prayer is answered, usually in ways we never know.

Deanery Synodal Council

This coming Saturday, the Deanery Synodal Council will meet again. Following time to gather, we will pray and take some time to listen to each other. Then, there will be two tasks. The first will be to continue the work on our three 'Families of Parishes' (Widnes & Cronton, West Warrington & East Warrington). The second task will be to prepare for the Archdiocesan Synodal Council (ASC). The ASC will take place on Saturday 25 November. Eight representatives (one priest and seven parishioners) will represent each Deanery in the Archdiocese. The task of the ASC is to monitor the progress of the Pastoral Plan issued after our Archdiocesan Synod and to reflect on the next steps for implementing the plan in our parishes.

And finally... In lighter news, one of my cats, Blaise, has discovered she has a tail and spends an enormous amount of time trying to catch it. She's 9!

*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 15 October 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)	10.30 am Mass Joan Howl 2.00 pm Blessing of Animals	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Tom Fiddler 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 16 October		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 17 October St Ignatius of Antioch		11.00 am Mass Brian Harris
Wednesday 18 October Feast of St Luke, Evangelist	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Lena Sampson	
Thursday 19 October	1.30 pm Burial of Lena Sampson (Fox Covert)	11.00 am Mass Thanksgiving 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 20 October	11.00 am Mass People of the Holy Land	
Saturday 21 October		4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners
Sunday 22 October 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>World Mission Day</i>	10.30 am Mass Jean Molphy	8.30 am Mass Rita Devine

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

08.10.23	£964.48	(£502.81 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£45.00	(£25.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1139.17	
2nd Collection	£534.64	(CAFOD's Fast Day)
Parish Caritas	£42.56	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday is World Mission Day when we pray and reach out to missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. There will be a Second Collection for the Pope's charity, 'Missio' (i.e. the 'Red Box' charity).

RED MISSION BOXES

If your box needs emptying, please bring it to church or to the Parish Office. Many thanks.

WALSINGHAM 2024

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Journey into Prayer – A course at The Cenacle from 16 January for 12 weeks. Brochures at the back of church.
Mozart's Requiem – Saturday 21 October at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral. Tickets £15 (£10 concessions) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 25: 6-10 Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20 Matthew 22: 1-14
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 28

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, Andrew McDonagh, Sheila Mellor, Peter Milner, Trina Mouldsdales, 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.

Other Parishes

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

Those who have died recently, especially:

Jean Jones