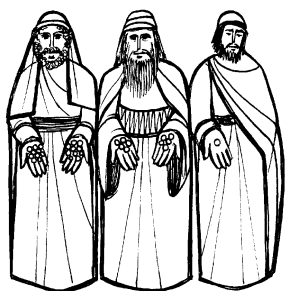


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
19 November 2023

My dear sisters and brothers,

World Day of the Poor

Today is the seventh World Day of the Poor established by Pope Francis in 2017. Pope Francis has written a challenging message entitled, "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (*cf. Tobit 4:7*). Whenever we turn away from those who are poor, we turn away from Jesus himself, who is forever associated with the most vulnerable in society. You can read the Pope's message on the Parish website.

Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis has stressed the need to do more than just relieve suffering (compassion), but to work to challenge the causes of suffering and do what we can to ensure it does not happen in the first place (justice).

There are many ordinary people who do extraordinary work with those on the margins of our society. They do more than give alms. They walk alongside people who are trapped in various forms of poverty and try and help them. So may I thank those parishioners who reach out to others in so many ways throughout the year, our Parish Centres who do the same, and the many who donate to our Parish Caritas Fund which enables us to help many individuals and families in the local community.

New Parish Administrator

As many of you know, Celia Rigby will be leaving us at the end of December to explore her vocation with the Dominicans. She has been a brilliant assistant, not only to me, but also to Mgr John Devine before me. I will miss her greatly. We will have the opportunity to thank her and pray for her early in the New Year.

In the meantime, I need to find a new administrator for the parish. Given the cost-of-living crisis and the

impact on parish finances, this will now need to be a part-time position.

The Archdiocesan Human Resources Department are responsible for recruiting employees. They have advertised the position on the Archdiocesan website this week. You can find full details and apply online here: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/careers The closing date for applications is 27 November 2023.

Archdiocesan Synodal Council

The inaugural meeting of the Archdiocesan Synodal Council (ASC) takes place next Saturday, 25 November. This is an important moment in our commitment to embed synodality in every aspect of Archdiocesan life.

The task of the ASC is to monitor the development and progress of the Pastoral Plan, and to identify the priorities for the work of the Archdiocese during the next twelve months. In addition, those deaneries that have been able to identify 'Families of Parishes' will also be announced.

There will be a live link to the ASC which anyone can join from home on the homepage of the Archdiocesan website: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

Christmas Cards to the Holy Land

Finally, thank you to all those who've been able to write a Christmas card for our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land. I will post them tomorrow.

*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 – 3.00 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 19 November 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>World Day of the Poor</i>	10.30 am Mass Frank O'Brien	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Special Intention 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 20 November		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 21 November Presentation of Our Lady		11.00 am Mass Maureen Fisher
Wednesday 22 November St Cecilia <i>'Red Wednesday'</i>	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Tom Fiddler	
Thursday 23 November		11.00 am Mass Josephine Clare 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 24 November St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	12.00 noon Deanery Mass at St John Fisher, Widnes	
Saturday 25 November		4.30 pm Vigil Mass John & Margaret McGinty
Sunday 26 November Solemnity of Christ the King (A) <i>World Youth Day</i>	10.30 am Mass Harry Howl 3.00 pm Mass in Cantonese	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

12.11.23	£1034.98	<i>(£392.00 Gift Aid)</i>
Standing Orders	£129.69	<i>(£89.31 Gift Aid)</i>
Digital Giving	£171.50	<i>(£53.50 Gift Aid)</i>
Total	£1336.17	
Parish Caritas	£269.30	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, there will be a second collection to support the work of 'Animate' – the youth ministry in the Archdiocese. You can find out more about Animate here: www.animateyouth.org This will be the last second collection this year.

'RED WEDNESDAY'

This Wednesday, 22 November, 'Aid to the Church in Need' invites us to stand in solidarity with Christians, and others, who are persecuted for their peacefully held beliefs. There are four practical ways we could do this:

- 1) We could light a candle and say a prayer – at home or in church.
- 2) We could go to Mass and offer it for those who are suffering for their faith.
- 3) We could wear something 'red' on Wednesday. Red is the colour we use for martyrs. Christians are the most persecuted faith group in the world today!
- 4) We could find out more about Red Wednesday at: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday>

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Christmas Fair today (Sunday) in St Benedict's Parish Centre, 11.30 am – 2.00 pm. All are welcome.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

How can we help? Please pick up a sheet from the back of church or download it from the Parish website.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31 1 Thess 5: 1-6; Matthew 25: 14-30
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 33

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, 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 Moms, Elizabeth Nash, Margaret Smith, Pamela Watson.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Jackie Wilkinson, Fr Nick Wilde.