

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**1st Sunday of Advent (B)
3 December 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

The Season of Advent

Today we begin the Season of Advent – a time of preparation for the great feast of Christmas. As we bless and light the Advent Wreath in church, you might like to do the same at home:

**Lord God,
bless this wreath which we will use
to prepare for the birth of your Son.
May its light scatter the darkness in our lives,
warm our hearts with hope,
and guide us into the way of peace.**

Advent Collections

This year, in place of the usual Advent Collections, we are encouraged to reach out to our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land. There's a sheet at the back of church suggesting ways we can do this. You can also download this sheet from the Parish website.

Families of Parishes

Part of the response to our Archdiocesan Synod is to join with other parishes to share initiatives, personnel, resources, and so on. This initiative is called 'Families of Parishes'. If you missed the recent roadshows and would like to know more about 'Families of Parishes', there will be a Zoom meeting this Wednesday, 6 December, at 7.00 pm led by Fr Philip Inch and Fr Matthew Nunes. You are very welcome to join the meeting. Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421512557?pwd=SVd5cFhTQ0dwUFJzOjhlLSlQ5VjJJOT09>

Christingle Service

Our new 'Family of Parishes', which incorporates the parishes of St Stephen's, Blessed James Bell and St Peter & St Michael's in Woolston, is invited to come together for a Christingle Service on Sunday 17 December at 4.00 pm at St Benedict's. 'Christingle' is an Advent service

celebrating the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. This short service (about 35 minutes), which will be followed by refreshments, is especially suitable for children who will lead a procession of light around the church.

LGBTQ+ Catholics

The next Mass with LGBTQ+ Catholics and friends will take place at 2.00 pm next Sunday, 10 December, at All Saints, Golborne WA3 3BG. All are most welcome.

SVP Christmas Party

The SVP are organising a Christmas Party for senior citizens on Sunday 17 December, 1.00 – 3.30 pm, at St Oswald's Parish Centre. Refreshments, ukelele band, prizes, bingo. If you would like to attend, please put your name on the sheet at the back of church by 15 December. Many thanks.

Christmas Mass Times

Having taken some soundings from parishioners, I suggest we return to our pre-Covid Christmas Mass times this year. So here's this year's schedule:

Christmas Eve

6.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Oswald's
11.30 pm Christmas Midnight Mass at St Benedict's

Christmas Day

8.30 am Christmas Dawn Mass at St Oswald's
10.30 am Christmas Day Mass at St Benedict'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:** Miss 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 3 December 1st Sunday of Advent (B) <i>Day of Prayer for Migrants</i>	10.30 am Mass Ken Hindle	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners 8.30 am Mass Ellen Cox
Monday 4 December		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 5 December St John Almond		11.00 am Mass Deacon John Traynor
Wednesday 6 December	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Jack Skelland	
Thursday 7 December St Ambrose		11.00 am Mass Fr David O'Kane 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 8 December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	11.00 am Mass Holy Souls	
Saturday 9 December		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Jo & Barry Thompson
Sunday 10 December 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)	10.30 am Mass Anthony Potter	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

26.11.23	£1050.14	(£314.87 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£149.50	(£94.50 Gift Aid)
Total	£1329.33	
2nd Collection	£399.12	(Animate Youth)
Pious Lists	£298.00	(Priests Training Fund)
Fundraising	£46.00	(Hot Dogs)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

The usual publications, 'Advent Extra' and 'Walk With Me' are available in church together with an Advent Calendar for Children.

NATIVITY SCENE FESTIVAL

This week, St John Henry Newman are holding a display of Crib scenes in church as follows: Tuesday 5 December (10.00 – 12.00 noon & 2.00 – 4.00 pm), Wednesday 6 December (6.00 – 8.00 pm) and Friday 8 December (10.00 – 11.30 am & 2.00 – 4.00 pm). All are welcome. Refreshments will be available.

LIGHTS TO REMEMBER

All are welcome to attend Marie Curie's Lights to Remember Service at the Cathedral next Sunday, 10 December, 5.00 – 6.00 pm, followed by refreshments and mice pies. The event is especially for people who have been affected by terminal illness or bereavement.

ADVENT AT THE CATHEDRAL

Sunday 10 December at 3.00 pm

A Ceremony of Carols

Sunday 17 December at 5.00 pm

Festival Carol Service

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	1st Sunday of Advent (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 63: 16-17, 19; 64: 2-7 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 33-37
Weekdays	Advent – Week 1

MARANATHA
Come, Lord Jesus!

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:

Marie Morley