

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

3rd Sunday of Advent (B)

17 December 2023

My dear sisters and brothers,

And she's off!

After almost twelve years as Parish Administrator and some years before as assistant to Jenny Fry, Celia will be leaving us this Thursday to further discern her vocation to the Religious Life.

When Celia told me that she was thinking of the Religious Life, I wasn't surprised. I can see it in her. She is making a lot of sacrifices to explore her vocation – she has given up her house and is now giving up her job! May our Lord reward her goodness and love by showing her what he wants her to do for him and walk with her always.

We are going to miss Celia greatly – me more than most. Celia has been the perfect secretary and administrator. She has been the first port of call for many – the friendly voice at the end of the phone and the smiling face at the front door. For me, Celia has taken care of so much of the administration that I have been free to go out into the parish, the hospital, the schools, the deanery and the diocese. Without her – as I quickly discovered during the first lockdown – I would be fairly desk tied.

We will have the opportunity to pray for Celia and wish her well on Friday 5 January. She will be entering the novitiate on that day, so we will mark the occasion with Mass at 11.00 am and a reception afterwards.

New Parish Administrator

Last Tuesday, I interviewed applicants for Celia's role as Parish Administrator. There were some good candidates. In fact, out of the thirteen that applied, four were particularly promising. However, I could only appoint one. The successful candidate will join us on 16 January. Between now and then, Frances and Blaise will have to step up and help me!

I am very grateful to all those who applied for the position and hope that the other applicants find suitable employment very soon.

SVP Christmas Party

The SVP Christmas Party for senior citizens takes place today (Sunday), 1.00 – 3.30 pm, in St Oswald's Parish Centre.

Christingle Service

Our first 'Family of Parishes' event takes place today (Sunday) at 4.00 pm in St Benedict's. It will be a simple Christingle Service, especially suitable for children, and will be followed by cakes and juice, mince pies and mulled wine. Do come along if you can. It will be a great opportunity to meet with those from the other parishes in East Warrington.

Advent Penance Service

I would like to invite you to join me at St Oswald's this coming Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm for our annual Advent Penance Service. This service, which is a simple Service of Reconciliation, always lifts our hearts and puts us in the right frame of mind for the coming feasts.

St Oswald's Parish Centre

Finally, due to unforeseen circumstances, St Oswald's Parish Centre will **temporarily close** from 21 December. I hope we will be able to reopen early in the New Year.

*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. This week: Monday to Thursday, 9.00 am – 4.00 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 17 December 3rd Sunday of Advent (B) <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	10.30 am Mass The Parishioners 4.00 pm Christingle Service	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass (<i>Signed</i>) Frank Berry 8.30 am Mass (Derrick Roberts)
Monday 18 December		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 19 December		11.00 am School Christmas Mass Sr M Helena 7.30 pm Advent Penance Service
Wednesday 20 December	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Doherty Family 6.00 pm School Carol Service	
Thursday 21 December	9.15 am Christmas Mass in School 2.00 pm Beamont Nursery Carols	11.00 am Funeral Mass Ken Armitage
Friday 22 December	11.00 am Mass Ian, Pat & Nicola Buist	
Saturday 23 December		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Rita Devine
Sunday 24 December 4th Sunday of Advent (B) Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord <i>Christmas Eve</i>	10.30 am Mass Arthur & Veronica Brindle 11.30 pm Christmas Midnight Mass The Parishioners	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners 6.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass Molly & Arthur Whalley
Monday 25 December Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord <i>Christmas Day</i>	10.30 am Christmas Day Mass Peace in the Holy Land	8.30 am Christmas Dawn Mass Eileen Collins

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

10.12.23	£883.10	(£384.66 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£133.50	(£63.50 Gift Aid)
Total	£1146.29	
Parish Caritas	£25.00	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

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.

MIDNIGHT MASS ON RADIO 4

This year, Midnight Mass will be broadcast live from Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on BBC Radio 4 at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve. If you wish to attend, you are asked to be seated by 11.15 pm. Tickets are not required.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS FUN RUN

The annual CAFOD Christmas Fun Run takes place at 11.00 am on Wednesday 27 December at The Mystery, Wavertree Athletics Centre, Wellington Road, Liverpool L15 4LE. Run, walk or wheel 3km or 5km with family or friends and make a difference to families fighting poverty with every step you take. See poster in church or on the Parish website for full details.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(*Divine Office – Psalter Week 3*)

Today	3rd Sunday of Advent (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28
Weekdays	Advent: 17-24 December

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, 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, 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:

Brian Fitzgerald, Ken Armitage, Ian Buist, Fr Terry Murray OMI, Mary Harcourt, Terry Ann Rathbone.