

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**4th Sunday of Advent (B)**  
**24 December 2023**

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we gather once again to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. The festive season is upon us, and though the challenges of our times may persist, the timeless message of Christmas continues to shine brightly, offering us hope, love, and peace.

It is a busy time for everyone, with last-minute preparations, food and gifts on the agenda, and from an Archdiocese point of view, there has been plenty to celebrate this year.

In July, we celebrated 100 years since our first pilgrimage to Lourdes. We travelled out there in great numbers, and it was truly an occasion to remember.

With that, we also celebrated 100 years since the miracle of Jack Traynor and remembered his story.

In September, it was a historic moment, not just for the Archdiocese, but for the Catholic Church in this country, as St Mary of the Isle in the Isle of Man became our co-cathedral – the first of its kind in the UK.

It was a momentous occasion, with the ceremony being watched not just by those in attendance, but by many more across the world online.

Despite this, I am also aware that it has not been an easy year for everyone. The cloud of the cost-of-living crisis still lingers, and we have seen the devastating impacts of climate change, and conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza.

In a world that often grapples with uncertainty, economic challenges, and social issues, it is easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Just as Mary and Joseph faced an uncertain journey to Bethlehem, finding themselves in humble surroundings, so too do we encounter the unexpected in our lives. Yet, amidst the difficulties, we find the enduring message of God's love.

It's a reminder that even though we remember them with much fondness – they also had to go through their tough times. From having to travel a fair distance on a donkey, to there being no room at the Inn. But at the end of it, they got to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

In the midst of the world's darkness, we find hope in the light that the birth of Jesus brings. Like the shepherds on that holy night, let us not be afraid, for the message of Christmas is a message of hope – a hope that transcends time and circumstances.

I pray that this Christmas fills your hearts with the warmth of love, the joy of hope, and the peace that surpasses all understanding. May the light of Christ shine brightly in your lives, bringing comfort and assurance in the days ahead.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas.

In Christ's love,

**Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP**  
Archbishop of Liverpool

### General Information

1) **Parish Priest:** Canon Dave Heywood. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: [frdave@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:frdave@rcaol.org.uk) Address: St Benedict's Priory, Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE.  
**Deacons:** Revv Tony Kerrigan & David Boyle.

2) **Parish Office** will be closed this week. Please phone Fr Dave (630127) or email [frdave@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:frdave@rcaol.org.uk)

3) **Parish Website** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://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** will only be open for Mass this week.

6) **Communion at Home** – If you are not able to come to Mass and would like to receive communion at home, please phone Fr Dave (630127).

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
<b>Sunday 24 December</b> 4th Sunday of Advent (B) <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Parents</i>  Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord <i>Christmas Eve</i>	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Arthur & Veronica Brindle  <b>11.30 pm Christmas Midnight Mass</b> The Parishioners	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Rita Devine <b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners <b>6.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass</b> Molly & Arthur Whalley
<b>Monday 25 December</b> Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord <i>Christmas Day</i>	<b>10.30 am Christmas Day Mass</b> Peace in the Holy Land	<b>8.30 am Christmas Dawn Mass</b> Eileen Collins
<b>Tuesday 26 December</b> Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr	<b>11.30 am Mass in Cantonese</b>	
<b>Wednesday 27 December</b> Feast of St John, Apostle & Evangelist	<b>10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition</b> <b>11.00 am Mass</b> Nadine Davies	
<b>Thursday 28 December</b> Feast of the Holy Innocents		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Annie & Timothy Dewane
<b>Friday 29 December</b> Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Patrick Cullen	
<b>Saturday 30 December</b>		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Brian Fitzgerald
<b>Sunday 31 December</b> Feast of the Holy Family (B)	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Colin Sykes	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners
<b>Monday 1 January 2024</b> Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>11.00 am New Year's Day Mass</b> World Peace	

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

17.12.23	£745.07	(£302.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£148.50	(£73.50 Gift Aid)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1023.26</b>	
Parish Caritas	£201.20	

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

### ST OSWALD'S PARISH CENTRE

Unfortunately, due to staffing issues, St Oswald's Parish Centre is **temporarily closed** until the New Year.

### MIDNIGHT MASS ON RADIO 4

Midnight Mass will be broadcast live from the Cathedral on Radio 4 at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve. If you wish to attend, please be seated by 11.15 pm.

### 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. See poster in church for full details.

**May the birth of Christ remind you  
of the great love God has for you,  
and may his peace rest upon you.**

*Fr Dave & Fr Austin, Deacons Tony & David,  
Seminarist Dan*

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent (B)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38
<b>Weekdays</b>	Octave of the Nativity

### 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 Mouldsdales, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, 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 Mome, Elizabeth Nash, Margaret Smith, Pamela Watson.

**Those who have died recently, especially:**

Fr Terry Murray, Terry Ann Rathbone, Paul Vernon.