

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

**Feast of the Holy Family (B)**  
**31 December 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### The Feast of Christmas

Many thanks to everyone who was able to come and celebrate the great feast of Christmas.

A very special thanks to all those who helped to make the liturgies so joyful and prayerful: our stewards; Clare and Fran for providing the music at St Oswald's, and Mary, John, Frances and Clement for the music at St Benedict's; the Readers; those who decorated the Christmas Trees, set up the Cribs and adorned the churches with the most beautiful flowers; and the teams who keep our churches looking so clean and welcoming. Thanks also to Deacon Tony and our seminarian, Dan, for all their help and support.

May I also thank you for your cards and gifts, your prayers and good wishes. It's very humbling to be on the receiving end of such kindness. My two cats, Frances and Blaise, would also like to thank you for thinking of them – their new toys have distracted them from climbing the Christmas Tree in church for now!

### Celia Rigby

This Friday, we will have the opportunity to thank Celia for being our Parish Administrator for the last twelve years, and to pray for her as she begins the next step in discerning her vocation to the Religious Life. We will offer Mass with and for Celia at St Benedict's on Friday at 11.00 am which will be followed by a reception in the Sacristy Meeting Room. All are welcome.

### New Parish Administrator

Unfortunately, our new administrator won't be able to join us until 6 February. This is going to leave me a little stretched for the next month.

I'm very grateful to the volunteers who will cover the Parish Office during the busy times of the week. This cover will be limited so please be patient if your phone call is not returned straight away or there is no answer if you knock at St Benedict's Priory.

**St Benedict's Church** will continue to be open during the week but at reduced times because we can't leave the church open if no one is on site.

### CAFOD's Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land

Christ, Prince of Peace,  
hear our prayer and lament,  
for our suffering sisters and brothers.  
Our hearts are heavy as we witness lives torn apart,  
as we see the faces of frightened children  
and hear the pleas of those without water or food.

We pray for the dead and the grieving,  
for the injured and the afraid.  
We pray for courage and perseverance,  
for those working for healing and to bring aid.  
We pray for world leaders,  
that they may strive for a just and lasting peace.

God of new beginnings,  
in your ways are compassion and hope.  
Open our hearts to dialogue and understanding.  
Lead us all to answer your call  
to become peacemakers  
today, and all the days of our life.

*God bless you,  
Fr Dave*

### 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:** Please phone 01925 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 be open Tuesday to Friday this week, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm.

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 31 December</b> Feast of the Holy Family (B)	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Colin Sykes	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Brian Fitzgerald <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	
<b>Tuesday 2 January</b> SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Pat and the Gibbons Family
<b>Wednesday 3 January</b> Weekday of Christmas Time	<b>10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition</b> <b>11.00 am Mass</b> John O'Neill <b>1.15 pm Funeral Mass</b> Paul Vernon	
<b>Thursday 4 January</b> Weekday of Christmas Time		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Ken Armitage <b>7.00 pm Novena &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Friday 5 January</b> Weekday of Christmas Time	<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Celia Rigby <b>1.30 pm Funeral Service</b> Terry-Ann Rathbone	<b>9.15 am School New Year Mass</b> Thomas Bradley
<b>Saturday 6 January</b> Weekday of Christmas Time		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Private Intention (LISC)
<b>Sunday 7 January</b> Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Kath Bradshaw	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Totals for last Sunday and Christmas will be published next weekend.

### ST OSWALD'S PARISH CENTRE

Hopefully, we will be able to reopen St Oswald's Parish Centre at some stage during the week.

### ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

Beginning on 1 January, St Benedict's are resurrecting the 200 Club to help fund the maintenance of the church building. Cost is £5 per month paid in advance. Numbers will be drawn on the last Sunday of the month. There will four prizes: 1st = £50, 2nd = £25, 3rd = £15, 4th = £10. See Chris Sykes for payment after Mass.

Happy  
New Year

As we enter a New Year,  
may the Lord be a sure path beneath our feet,  
a bright light before us,  
a kindly shepherd with us,  
this day, and every day.  
**Amen.**

*Adapted from a Blessing for the Feast of Saint Columba*

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>Feast of the Holy Family (B)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 22-40
<b>Weekdays</b>	Christmas Time

### 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, 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:**

Terry Ann Rathbone, Paul Vernon.

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