

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



1st Sunday of Advent (B)

3 December 2023

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

O Jesus Christ remember (982)

Greeting & Introduction

Blessing & Lighting of the Advent Wreath



Penitential Act

Music: Advent Wreath Service (65)

Collect

Rend the heavens and come down,
O God of all the ages!
Rouse us from sleep,
deliver us from our heedless ways,
and form us into a watchful people,
that, at the advent of your Son,
he may find us doing what is right,
mindful of all you command.
Grant this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading *(Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways

and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come
down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80

**Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

- 1 O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.
- 2 Once again, O Lord of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

Second Reading

(1 Corinthians 1: 3-9)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you
grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you
have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your
teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has
indeed been strong among you so that you will not be
without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are
waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he
will keep you steady and without blame until the last
day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by
calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and
God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel (Mark 13: 33-37)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Apostles' Creed

Together, we say:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Come, Lord Jesus! **R. Maranatha!**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Song: Abba, Abba, Father (932)

Prayer over the Offerings

Father,
from all you give us
we present this bread and wine.
As we serve you now,
accept our offering
and sustain us with your promise of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy – Mass of Christ the Saviour (Dan Schutte)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

Notre père... Tève Mūsų... Vater unser... Ojczy nasz...
Padre nostro... 我們的父親

Sign of Peace

Please exchange the Sign of Peace with those around you in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

Communion

Music: Cantata "Wachet auf" – J.S. Bach

Prayer after Communion

Lord, may the celebration of these mysteries profit us, we pray,
since through them you teach us,
on our journey through this passing world,
to love the things of heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Final Song

Like a sea without a shore (84)

The **Offertory Collection** takes place as you leave church – a basket will be available, or you can use the 'Tap & Go' facility. This collection is the main source of income for the parish. Many thanks for your generosity.

Acknowledgements

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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

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