

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

10 December 2023

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

Hark! a herald voice is calling (92)

Greeting & Introduction

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Penitential Act

Music: Advent Wreath Service (65)

Collect

With tender comfort and transforming power
you come into our midst,
O God of mercy and might.
Make ready a way in the wilderness,
clear a straight path in our hearts,
and form us into a repentant people,
that the advent of your Son
may find us watchful
and eager for the glory he reveals.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
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 40: 1-5, 9-11)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.'

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low.
Let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85

**Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**

- 1 I will hear what God proclaims;
the Lord – for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation
to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.
- 2 Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

Second Reading

(2 Peter 3: 8-14)

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never
forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand
years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is
not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody
else might be called slow; but he is being patient with
you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to
be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord
will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will
vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the
earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you
should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait
and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will
dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat.
What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new
heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness
will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are

waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel *(Mark 1: 1-8)*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

After each intention:

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

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Advent Carol: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord,
with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
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... Têve Mûşu... 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

Advent Carol: Lulla Loel – Chameleon

Prayer after Communion

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Final Song

Promised Lord and Christ (103)

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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