

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## 3rd Sunday of Advent (B)

Gaudete Sunday – 17 December 2023

### Introductory Rites

#### Entrance Procession *(The Great 'O' Antiphons)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel (112) verses 1-4

#### Greeting & Introduction

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!

#### Penitential Act

#### Collect

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
ever faithful to your promises  
and ever close to your Church:  
the earth rejoices in hope of the Saviour's coming  
and looks forward with longing  
to his return at the end of time.  
Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness  
that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope  
which his presence will bestow,  
for he is Lord for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

### Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading *(Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,

he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm (Luke 1: 46-50)**

#### My soul rejoices in my God.

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed.
- 2 The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

#### Second Reading

*(1 Thess 5: 16-24)*

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

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things  
give thanks to God, because this is what God expects  
you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of  
prophecy with contempt; think before you do  
anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every  
form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and  
may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and  
body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has  
called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### Gospel Acclamation

#### Gospel

*(John 1: 6-8, 19-28)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews  
sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,  
'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared  
quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they  
asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the  
Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who

are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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:* Word made flesh (989)

### Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,  
be offered to you unceasingly,  
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery  
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.  
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 Mûsû... 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:* Come, thou Redeemer of the earth – St Ambrose (d. 397)

*Hymn:* Tell out my soul (880)

### Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord,  
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults  
and prepare us for the coming feasts.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## Concluding Rite

### Blessing & Dismissal

### Final Song

Our God reigns (768) verses 1-3

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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.

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### 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