

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



4th Sunday of Advent (B)

24 December 2023

Introductory Rites

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

O come, O come, Emmanuel (112) verses 5, 6 & 7

Greeting & Introduction

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Penitential Act

Music: Advent Wreath Service (65)

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
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 *(2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16)*

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as

the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

- 1 The promises of the Lord I will sing forever;
through all generations
my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.
For you have said,
"My kindness is established forever";
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.
- 2 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations."

Second Reading

(Romans 16: 25-27)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Luke 1: 26-38)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen!

You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Blessing & Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Holy God,
bless + this tree.
May its evergreen branches
be a sign of your everlasting love.
May its colourful lights and ornaments call us
to decorate our homes and our world with your love.
As we prepare to celebrate this joyful season,
keep us safe in our gatherings,
kind in our conversations,
and gracious in our giving and receiving.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Bidding Prayers

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

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Advent Carol: The angel Gabriel (113)

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power the womb of Mary.
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 Mūsū... 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 Chant: Rorate Coeli (based on Isaiah 45: 8)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain righteousness:
may the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.
Show us, Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Come, Lord, and do not delay.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God, that,
as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration
of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Oh Mary when our God chose you (329) verses 1-3, 5

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