

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Feast of the Holy Family (B)

31 December 2023

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

Once in royal David's city (128) verses 1-4

Greeting & Introduction

Litany of Praise

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Word made flesh, you have made us children of the Father.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Word of God, you became human to share our life.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Light of the world, you scatter the darkness that troubles us.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Gift of the Father, you are with us and never leave us.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Collect

What love you have bestowed upon us,
O good and gracious God,
in letting us be called your children,
and in giving us your Son, Jesus,
to live as a child among us
in the family of Mary and Joseph!

Let all who seek the face of Christ find him,
not only here, in this house of prayer,
but in the households, large and small,
where your love is revealed
in our love for each other.

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

(Colossians 3: 12-17)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord; bless his name.
- 2 Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Luke 2: 22-40)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,

just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering
at the things that were being said about him, Simeon
blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this
child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of
many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected –
and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the
secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of
Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years.
Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for
seven years before becoming a widow. She was now
eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving
God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by
just at that moment and began to praise God; and she
spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the
deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord
required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town
of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and
he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with
him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Letter

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

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Carol: See, amid the winter's snow (151) v 1-2, 5-6

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord, accept this sacrifice
and through the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God,
and of her husband, Joseph,
unite our families in peace and love.
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

Sign of Peace

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

Communion

Carol: In the bleak midwinter (144)

Prayer after Communion

A Prayer for New Year's Eve

Holy God,
as we enter this New Year,
we thank you for your presence with us
in all the years of our lives.

We have known joy, and also sorrow,
success and failure,
and through it all, you have been with us
– the companion of all our journeys.

Much of life is fleeting
and so we thank you for things that endure:
the love of faithful friends,
wisdom gained from experience,
the reliability of nature, and your steadfast love.

We thank you for this New Year which awaits us.
Take us by the hand and lead us on.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Final Song

God rest you merry gentlemen (129) verses 1-2, 7

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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