

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Newsletter

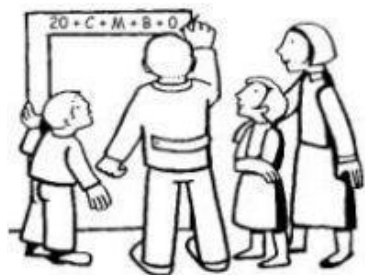
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
7 January 2024

My dear sisters and brothers,

### The Epiphany of the Lord

The great feast of Christmas continues today with the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord and concludes tomorrow (Monday) with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The Blessing of Homes is a time-honoured custom on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. It reminds us that Christ is with us in the love and care we show one another in our ordinary everyday lives together.



Why not have a little celebration at home today? One custom is to trace the Cross together with the initials "CMB" and the numerals of the year on the doorway of your home (using chalk, holy water, or simply with your finger), and then share your usual family meal together. "CMB" stands for "Christus mansionem benedicat" – "May Christ bless this house!" It also represents the names given to the wise men – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. So, the blessing for 2024 would look like this: **20 + C + M + B + 24**

### Jubilee Year 2025

Next year will be a Jubilee Year in the Church. A Jubilee Year, better known as a Holy Year, takes place every twenty-five years. Pope Francis has chosen the theme

for the year: 'Pilgrims of Hope' – a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the pandemic, and a climate crisis. This year will be a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year. More about this in the coming weeks.

### Peace Sunday

Next Sunday is Peace Sunday. Archbishop Malcolm writes: "The theme for Peace Sunday is Pope Francis' theme for the World Day of Peace - 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. I am sure you will agree that it is a highly relevant theme as Governments across the world, including our own, wrestle with the ethics and consequences of significant and potentially dangerous developments in technology. Pope Francis' overriding concern is that artificial intelligence should be used in the service of humanity and the protection of our common home and not to further injustice and inequality or to fuel division and violent conflict."

### And finally...

This week, I will be taking a much-needed break so there will be no Masses during the week and St Benedict's Church will be closed. Fr Austin has kindly offered to preside at the Masses next weekend, so that will give you a break from me too! I'll be back in harness on Tuesday 16 January.

In case of emergency, please contact one of the other priests in the Deanery. You can find their details under the 'Contact' heading on the Parish website.

*With my prayers,  
Fr Dave*

### General Information

1) **Parish Priest:** Canon Dave Heywood. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: [frdave@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:frdave@rcaol.org.uk) Address: St Benedict's Priory, Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE.  
**Deacons:** Revv Tony Kerrigan & David Boyle.

2) **Parish Office:** Please phone 01925 630127 or email [frdave@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:frdave@rcaol.org.uk)

3) **Parish Website** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk)

4) **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**

Wednesdays: 10.15 – 10.45 am at St Benedict's

Saturdays: After the 4.30 pm Mass at St Oswald's  
Confession is also available on request.

5) **St Benedict's Church** will only be open for Mass this week.

6) **Communion at Home** – If you are not able to come to Mass and would like to receive communion at home, please phone Fr Dave (630127).

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
<b>Sunday 7 January</b> Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Kath Bradshaw	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Private Intention (LISC) <b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners
<b>Monday 8 January</b> Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (B)		<b>7.00 pm Prayer Group</b>
<b>Tuesday 9 January</b>		<i>No Mass today</i>
<b>Wednesday 10 January</b>	<i>No Exposition or Mass today</i>	
<b>Thursday 11 January</b>		<i>No Mass today</i> <b>7.00 pm Novena &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Friday 12 January</b>	<i>No Mass today</i>	
<b>Saturday 13 January</b>		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Peter, Jo, Barbara & Geraldine Ellington
<b>Sunday 14 January</b> 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) <i>Peace Sunday</i>	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Michael Charles Seymour	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

24.12.23	£799.61	(£373.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£155.50	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1084.80</b>	
25.12.23	£1832.05	(£398.00 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£195.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2027.05</b>	
31.12.23	£789.76	(£267.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£95.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1014.45</b>	
Donation	£133.28	
Parish Caritas	£157.56	
Raffle	£121.00	(St Benedict's)

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

### ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

St Benedict's have restarted the 200 Club to help fund the maintenance of the church building. Cost is £5 per month paid in advance. Numbers will be drawn on the last Sunday of the month. There will be four prizes: 1st = £50, 2nd = £25, 3rd = £15, 4th = £10. See Chris Sykes for payment after Mass.

### VACANIES AT CARDINAL NEWMAN

Cardinal Newman Catholic High School have three vacancies: Part-time Office Administrator/Receptionist (20 hours, term-time plus one week, mornings); Part-time Level 2 Teaching Assistant (19.5 hours per week (0.6) plus 1 week for Inset days, term time only); Pastoral Manager (Maternity Cover, full-time 37 hours per week, term-time only). For full details:

[www.cardinal-newman.org.uk/vacancies.php](http://www.cardinal-newman.org.uk/vacancies.php)

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2: 1-12
<b>Weekdays</b>	Ordinary Time: Year 2, Week 1



### LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

**Those who are sick or homebound, especially:**  
*St Benedict's & St Mary's*

Luciano Bartolo, Malcolm Hackwell, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Ged Hughes, Susan Keating, Sheila Mellor, Peter Milner, Trina Mouldsdale, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Dolores Woodall.

#### *St Oswald's*

Keith Bate, Catherine Carne, Dave Ferris, Betty Fiddler, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Peter McKeown, Jean Murphy, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Claire Taylor, Ray Toft, Margaret Watts.

#### *Other Parishes*

Marie Barnes, Catherine Donaldson, June Fallon, Pauline Heywood, James Hutchison, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Margaret Mobbs, Sr Maire Moms, Elizabeth Nash, Margaret Smith, Pamela Watson.

**Those who have died recently, especially:**

Mary Brennan, Eunice Fletcher.