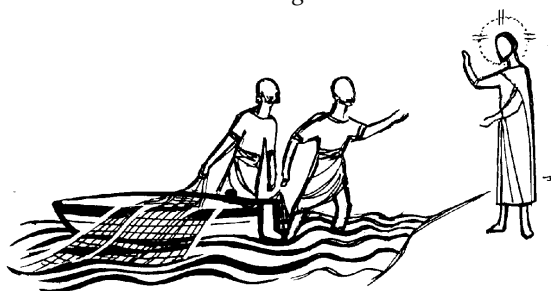


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
21 January 2024

My dear sisters and brothers,

The War in Gaza

After more than 100 days of war in Gaza, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, writes:

"The 100 days of warfare in Gaza and Israel illustrate, yet again, the horrors of war and the reinforcing of the barriers of hatred that it creates. Our 100 days of prayer are not futile and our prayer must continue, not only for peace in the wider Middle East but also in Ukraine and all other areas riven by conflict.

"The local Church tells us that the parish of the Holy Family in Gaza continues to be a place of safety for over 600 people, including over 50 severely disabled and very vulnerable children. They need our prayers and practical help financially. So, too, we pray for all those involved in current negotiations to bring additional humanitarian aid to the beleaguered people of Gaza and medical aid to the hostages. Tireless efforts in negotiations are essential. This war and violence against the innocent must end. The hostages must be released. People must be able to live in peace.

"The long, slow work of reconstruction has to begin, sooner or later, on the ruined foundations of life in Gaza and in Israel. The challenges are immense and the dangers facing the world immediate and deeply troubling."

Sunday of the Word of God

In 2019, Pope Francis set aside the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as 'Sunday of the Word of God'. He did so to remind us of the importance of reading and listening to the Scriptures. If you have a Bible at home, or a Missal which contains the Scripture Readings at Mass, why not pray this simple blessing today:

**God our Father, your Son proclaimed
the good news of salvation.**

Bless me as I read from these sacred texts.

**As I read, listen and reflect on your words of life,
strengthen my faith so that what I read in hope,
I may live in love and charity.**

There are lots of excellent resources about the Scriptures on this website: www.godwhospeaks.uk

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

The annual Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity began last Thursday. Pope Francis often talks about unity, not in terms of what separates the Christian Churches, but about doing the things that unite us. To this end, if you're free, I invite you to join me and other Christians for a short time of prayer this Wednesday (24 January) at 7.00 pm in Risley Independent Methodist Church, Fearnhead Lane, Fearnhead.

St Oswald's Parish Centre

Having announced that the Parish Centre would reopen last Monday, it didn't. The problem is the recruitment and retention of staff. The hospitality sector has been severely impacted by the pandemic: many clubs and pubs have closed, and others are facing an uncertain future. Having avoided closure before the pandemic by working hard to make the Parish Centre profitable again, it is deeply concerning that we cannot open because of a lack of staff. We are doing all we can to rectify the situation. In the meantime, we have managed to get staff to cover the weekend functions that have been booked for this month. I hope to have some more positive news to share next week.

Parish Office

In the absence of a Parish Administrator (Secretary), I am enormously grateful to those parishioners who are staffing the Parish Office. Please note the new office times: Tuesday to Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm.

*With my prayers,
Fr Dave*

General Information

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

2) **Parish Website** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk

3) **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.

4) **St Benedict's Church** is open for private prayer:
Tuesday to Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 21 January 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	10.30 am Mass Hans Burgess	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Laurence & Agnes O'Connor, Margaret Lomax 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 22 January		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 23 January	10.00 am Funeral Service Mary Margaret Brennan	11.00 am Mass Mark Hastry
Wednesday 24 January St Francis de Sales	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Christine Lowrey	7.00 pm Ecumenical Service <i>at Risley Independent, Fearnhead</i>
Thursday 25 January Feast of the Conversion of St Paul	1.30 pm Funeral Service Eunice Ann Fletcher	11.00 am Mass John & Peggy McGinty 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 26 January Saints Timothy & Titus	12.00 noon Deanery Mass <i>at St Peter & Michael's, Woolston</i>	
Saturday 27 January <i>Holocaust Memorial Day</i>		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Jack Disley
Sunday 28 January 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	10.30 am Mass Patricia Ann Jackson	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

07.01.24	£762.97	(£262.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£167.00	
Total	£1059.66	
14.01.24	£721.26	(£253.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£135.00	
Total	£985.95	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SURVIVE-MIVA

Next weekend, there will be an appeal on behalf of Survive-Miva, a Catholic lay association, based in Liverpool, which exists to provide one vital element for the success of the Church's health and pastoral work in areas of great need – a means of transport.

FIRST COMMUNION 2024

Parishioners in Year 4, who do NOT attend St Benedict's Catholic Primary School or St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, and who would like to celebrate First Communion this year, please contact Fr Dave as soon as possible. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION 2024

If you are in Year 8 and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, please visit the 'Liverpool Called' website www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk and click 'Register for Confirmation' at the top right-hand side of the page. Registration is open until 15 March 2024. Information about the preparation scheme can also be found on the website.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20
Weekdays	Ordinary Time: Year 2, Week 3

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 Mouldsdales, 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 Margaret Brennan, Eunice Ann Fletcher, Josephine Hall, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB, and Philomena Frances McCarron.