

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
28 January 2024

My dear sisters and brothers,

Survive-Miva

A very warm welcome to the volunteer who will be making an appeal on behalf of Survive-Miva this weekend. Survive-Miva is 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. See their website: www.survive-miva.org

Racial Justice Day

Today is a Day of Prayer for Racial Justice. Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice, writes: "In the history of the Church, there have been those who looked at the society in which they lived, and responded to what they saw... Alert and sensitive as they were to the commandments of Christ, when they saw justice being denied to someone because of their racial origin or colour, they were prompted to act. Their actions of opposing racism, promoting equality and justice, became their life's work... Sometimes they encountered hostility, rejection, and attempts to overturn what they were doing..."

"Can I suggest that you explore the lives of those great men and women – those who devoted their lives to the pursuit of racial justice, those who emulated God's passion for justice, which we read about in the scriptures." You can find their stories here: www.cbcew.org.uk/saints-of-colour

The Week That Was

What a week it's been! On Monday, St Oswald's Catholic Primary School were informed that they were to have a **Religious Education Inspection**. So Tuesday was spent checking all was in order and the Inspectors visited on Wednesday and Thursday. We should receive their report shortly after half-term.

There were lots of meetings during the week, including trying to resolve the situation over **St Oswald's Parish Centre**. As I've said, the problem is over staffing. We are moving towards a resolution, but we are not there yet. I do apologise to all those who use the Club on a regular basis. We are managing to cover the weekend functions that have been booked, but little else. I am hopeful that normal service will resume very soon.

On Wednesday evening, we had our first Churches Together **Ecumenical Service** since Covid! It was held at Risley Independent Methodist Church in Fearnhead and was a real tonic. Many thanks to those parishioners who were able to join me.

I met with the Archdiocesan surveyor regarding the **roof of St Oswald's Church**. The plan I announced in the Autumn to patch the areas where there is water ingress is beginning to move forward.

Finally, on Thursday night, I received news that my mother is close to death. So I quickly booked a flight and visited her in Dublin on Friday. Although she is asleep most of the time, she knew I was there, and I was able to celebrate the sacraments with her. Please keep her in your prayers. Her name is Pauline.

Confirmation 2024

Finally, if you have a child or grandchild in Year 8, please encourage them to sign up for the Sacrament of Confirmation by visiting the website www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk and clicking on the 'Register for Confirmation' tab. Signing up will mean your child or grandchild will be included in this year's preparation for Confirmation which will help them to decide if this is something they want to do at this stage in their lives. Registration is open until 15 March 2024.

*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 28 January 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	10.30 am Mass Patricia Ann Jackson	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Jack Disley 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 29 January		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 30 January		11.00 am Mass Terence Ryan
Wednesday 31 January St John Bosco	12.00 noon Funeral Mass Josephine Hall	
Thursday 1 February		11.00 am Mass Special Intention 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 2 February Feast of the Presentation of the Lord <i>'Candlemas'</i>	11.00 am Blessing of Candles, Procession & Mass Sr Celia	
Saturday 3 February St Blaise	<i>RCIA Retreat Day for the Deaf Community</i>	4.30 pm Vigil Mass James Byrne
Sunday 4 February 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)	10.30 am Mass <i>(including Children's Liturgy)</i> John & Mary Bostock	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

21.01.24	£951.15	(£444.55 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£209.50	
Total	£1290.34	
Parish Caritas	£260.00	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ST BENEDICT'S FUNDRAISING

† Today, being the last Sunday of the month, **Hot Dogs** will be on sale after Mass. All proceeds to the church maintenance fund.

† Thanks to all those who have joined the **200 Club** to help raise funds for the maintenance of the church. The first drawer will take place after Mass today.

† There's another fundraiser on Friday 16 February – a Race Night! See poster at the back of church.

AFTERNOON TEA FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The SVP, together with the Mini-Vinnies from St Oswald's Catholic Primary School and pupils from Cardinal Newman High School, are hosting an Afternoon Tea for Senior Citizens on Monday 5 February, 1.00 – 3.00 pm, in St Oswald's Parish Centre. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the sheet at the back of church. If you need transport, please add your phone number. Many thanks.

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.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35 Mark 1: 21-28
Weekdays	Ordinary Time: Year 2, Week 4

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, Margaret Watts.

Other Parishes

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

Those who have died recently, especially:

Josephine Hall, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB, Philomena Frances McCarron, Edith Mary Morris, Eileen Rita Price and Ray Toft.