

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

6 & 7 January 2024

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### Introductory Rites

#### Christmas Gloria

- 1 Joyful news to you I bring:  
Christ the Lord is here on earth,  
our redeemer and our King;  
sing with gladness at his birth.

***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

- 2 Joyful news to you I bring:  
Jesus Christ, a living sign,  
for our human ransoming  
comes to us through love divine.
- 3 Joyful news we sing today:  
incarnation, living bread,  
passion, taking sin away,  
resurrection from the dead.

*Words © Paul Inwood. Magnificat Music.*

#### Greeting & Introduction

#### Penitential Act / Rite of Welcome

#### Collect

O God, who on this day  
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star,  
grant in your mercy, that we,  
who know you already by faith,  
may be brought to behold the beauty  
of your sublime glory.  
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

*(Isaiah 60: 1-6)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,  
though night still covers the earth  
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises  
and above you his glory appears.  
The nations come to your light  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:  
all are assembling and coming towards you,  
your sons from far away  
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,  
your heart throbbing and full;  
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,  
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,  
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;  
everyone in Sheba will come,  
bringing gold and incense  
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 72

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

- 1 O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;  
he shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.
- 2 Justice shall flower in his days,  
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.  
May he rule from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

#### Second Reading

*(Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by  
God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by  
a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the  
mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed  
through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was  
unknown to any men in past generations; it means that  
pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are

parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**Gospel** *(Matthew 2: 1-12)*  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,  
for out of you will come a leader  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Homily

#### 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:* We three kings (170)

#### Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,  
on these gifts of your Church,  
in which are offered now  
not gold or frankincense or myrrh,  
but he who by them is proclaimed,  
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**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 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

*Anthem:* Arise and shine, the light has come!

#### Prayer after Communion

Father,  
guide us with your light.  
Help us to recognise Christ in this eucharist  
and welcome him with love,  
for he is Lord for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## Concluding Rite

#### Blessing & Dismissal

#### Final Song

The first Nowell (150) verses 1-3

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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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#### Acknowledgements

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