

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

11 February 2024

My dear sisters and brothers,

Ash Wednesday

The annual Season of Lent begins this Wednesday, 14 February. Ashes will be blessed and distributed during Mass as follows:

11.00 am **Mass at St Benedict's**

7.00 pm **Mass at St Oswald's**

In addition, small packets of ash and a prayer sheet have been sent to those who are homebound.

Some Ideas for Lent

1) Prayer

If you've got out of the habit of spending a few minutes in prayer each day, why not try and get back into the habit during Lent. It can help to 'book it in', as it were. Don't bite off more than you can chew – a few minutes is enough either to read the Gospel of the day and think about it, or simply to sit quietly... perhaps talk to the Lord in your own words, pray for someone, or just enjoy the silence. Prayer is simply about keeping in touch with our Lord like we keep in touch with family and friends.

Something that may help are the annual publications – 'Lent Extra' and 'Walk With Me'. You will find copies of these publications at the front of church and they're free. There's also a **Lenten Calendar** for children.

One of the best gifts we can give to another person is to pray for them. There's a **prayer list** at the end of the newsletter each week. Why not cut it out and stick it on your bathroom mirror? Then, every time you look in the mirror, pick a name and simply ask our Lord to bless that person.

2) Fasting

Going without a meal or something we enjoy can be good for us. It makes us think of those who don't have the basic necessities in life and moves us to help where we can.

3) Almsgiving – some opportunities to give to charity:

a) **CAFOD** – the Catholic international aid agency works to alleviate poverty and suffering in developing countries: www.cafod.org.uk

b) **Nugent** – a registered charity which cares, educates and protects vulnerable children, young people and adults through schools, care homes, community and social work services across the Archdiocese: www.wearenugent.org

c) **Mary's Meals** provides chronically hungry children with one meal every school day, encouraging education which can lift them out of poverty in later life: www.marysmeals.org.uk

d) **Parish Caritas** – donations are used to help those who are struggling in our own community.

The purpose of doing something for Lent isn't about trying to achieve something perfectly, rather it's about trying to become a little bit more like Jesus in our daily lives. So, if you mess up, don't give up, simply try again, or try something else. It's the trying that matters.

Deanery Synodal Council

Yesterday (Saturday), the Deanery Synodal Council met. Members reflected on the Archdiocesan Synodal Council, reviewed the events that took place before Christmas for our new 'Families of Parishes', and thought about what our next steps might be.

Happy New Year!

A very Happy New Year to our Hong Kong friends who are celebrating the Chinese New Year this weekend.

*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: Rev Tony Kerrigan & Rev 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 11 February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) <i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i> <i>Day of Prayer for the Unemployed</i>	10.30 am Mass The Parishioners	(Sat) 4.30 pm First Communion Presentation Mass Carole Lawless 8.30 am Mass Eileen Lawton
Monday 12 February		11.15 am Funeral Mass Eileen Rita Price 7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 13 February		11.00 am Mass Ellen Collins
Ash Wednesday, 14 February <i>Day of Fast & Abstinence</i>	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Robert Crook	7.00 pm Mass Alice Taylor
Thursday 15 February		<i>No Mass today</i> 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 16 February	11.00 am Mass Anthony Potter 11.40 am Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 17 February		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Jasmine Turner
Sunday 18 February 1st Sunday of Lent (B)	10.30 am Mass <i>(including Children's Liturgy)</i> The Parishioners	8.30 am Mass Stephen Cassella

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

04.02.24	£848.65	(£287.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£178.74	
Total	£1157.08	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ST BENEDICT'S RACE NIGHT

This Friday, 16 February, there's a Race Night for parishioners in St Benedict's Parish Centre, 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Thanks to the fundraising team for organising this event and to all who've contributed.

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH

At long last, the second phase of electrical works is due to start this week. The first phase involved rewiring the entrance to the church and the outside lights. The second phase involves rewiring and replacing the nave lighting and some of the electrical sockets.

CONFIRMATION 2024

Young people in Year 8 are invited to sign up for the Sacrament of Confirmation by visiting the website www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk and clicking on the 'Register for Confirmation' tab.

FIRST COMMUNION 2024

Parishioners in Year 4, who do NOT attend a Catholic 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 2)

Today	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Leviticus 13: 1-2, 45-46 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11: 1 Mark 1: 40-45
Weekdays	Ordinary Time: Year 2, Week 6 Lent begins on Wednesday

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

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, Jean Murphy, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts.

Other Parishes

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

Those who have died recently, especially:

Mgr George Mooney, Edith Morris, Eileen Rita Price, Peter McKeown and Ray Toft.