

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

1st Sunday of Lent (B)
18 February 2024

My dear sisters and brothers,

First Sunday of Lent

Lent may have begun last Wednesday, but it's never too late to start doing something to help us to get back into shape as Christians.

The Gospel for Ash Wednesday suggests three ways of keeping the holy season of Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Raymond Friel, the CEO of CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) reframes these traditional disciplines. He suggests we try to renew our relationships – with God (through prayer), with our neighbour (through almsgiving or works of charity), and with creation (through fasting and living simply).

Lenten Alms

During Lent, there will be a wall box in church for Lenten Alms. The money donated will go to support the children of Gaza who have suffered so much in recent months.

CAFOD's Lent Fast Day

This coming Friday, 23 February, is CAFOD's Lent Fast Day – one of two days in the year when we go without a meal, or something we enjoy, and give what we save in this way to the poorest of the poor.

Giving to CAFOD means our Church network can respond quickly to emergencies, like the current situation in Gaza. Please take an envelope home with you today and bring it back **next weekend OR on 2/3 March**. Alternatively, you can donate online here: www.cafod.org.uk/give

Annual Mission Appeal

Next weekend, Sister Pennie will join us to make the annual mission appeal. Sr Pennie is a member of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary in Liverpool and represents 14 Congregations of Sisters in UK with missions overseas.

New Headteacher

I'm delighted to announce that Mr Bob Forde, the Deputy Headteacher at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, has been appointed the new Headteacher of St Benedict's. We will have the opportunity to ask God's blessing on him during Mass this weekend.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. So, if you're free, come and join me for the ecumenical service for the World Day of Prayer at St Martin's Methodist Church, Gig Lane, Woolston, on Friday 1 March at 7.30 pm. All are very welcome. For more information about the day: www.wwdp.org.uk

Prayer to Our Lady (source unknown)

As my mum's health deteriorated and she found it difficult to walk, she drew great strength from this beautiful prayer:

Take my hand, O Blessed Mother, hold me firmly lest I fall. I am nervous when I am walking and to thee, I humbly call. Guide me over every crossing, watch me when I'm on the stairs, let me know that you're beside me, listen to my fervent prayer. Bring me to my destination, safely every day, help me with each undertaking as the hours pass away. And when evening falls upon us and I fear to be alone, take my hand, O Blessed Mother, once again and lead me home. Amen.

*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 18 February 1st Sunday of Lent (B)	10.30 am Mass <i>(including Children's Liturgy)</i> The Parishioners	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Jasmine Turner 8.30 am Mass Stephen Cassella
Monday 19 February	1.00 pm Funeral Service Edith Mary Monks	7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 20 February		11.00 am Mass Ken Armitage
Wednesday 21 February	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass John McGrath	12.30 pm Funeral Mass Ray Toft
Thursday 22 February Feast of the See of St Peter the Apostle		11.00 am Mass Ged Whelan 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 23 February <i>CAFOD'S Lent Fast Day</i>	11.00 am Mass Holy Souls (P.T.P) 11.40 am Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 24 February		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Terence Ryan
Sunday 25 February 2nd Sunday of Lent (B)	10.30 am Mass Mary Monks	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

01.02.24	£738.28	(£306.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£118.00	
Total	£985.97	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

LGBTQ+ CATHOLICS

The next Mass with LGBTQ+ Catholics and friends will take place at 2.00 pm on Sunday 3 March at All Saints, Oakfield, Liverpool L4 2QG followed by a social gathering. All are welcome.

DEANERY MASS

There will be no monthly Deanery Mass this Friday because a number of the priests will be attending Maureen Knight's Funeral Mass in Liverpool.

RED MISSION BOXES

The latest amounts donated from the Red Mission Boxes in our parish are: St Benedict's £354.83, St Mary's £1200, St Oswald's £494.53. Thank you so much to everyone for these amazing amounts which will go to support work of missionaries around the world.

CONFIRMATION 2024

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.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	1st Sunday of Lent (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Genesis 9: 8-15 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 12-15
Weekdays	Lent – Week 1

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:

Edith Monks, Ray Toft, Maureen Knight and Wilfred Dolley.