

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

2nd Sunday of Lent (B)
25 February 2024

My dear sisters and brothers,

Annual Mission Appeal

A very warm welcome to Sister Pennie who is joining us this weekend to make the Annual Mission Appeal. Sr Pennie is a member of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary and represents 14 Congregations of Sisters in the UK with missions overseas.

New Parish Administrator

I'm delighted to announce that at long last we have a new Parish Administrator! Bernie Griffin, who is a parishioner, will begin this Tuesday. So a very warm welcome to Bernie. Be gentle with her – she has a lot to learn in the next few months.

Since Celia left in December, I couldn't have managed if it wasn't for the goodness and kindness of parishioners who've helped to cover the Parish Office. In particular, I am deeply grateful to Chris Sykes who has come in every day to 'man' the phone and the front door. My sincere thanks also to those who have assisted Chris.

Please note: The new Parish Office hours are Tuesday to Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm. Outside these times, I will do my best to respond to calls as I can.

Widnes – 9 Years On

It's now over nine years since the parishes of Widnes, after much consultation and discernment, became one parish with four churches. In that time, people and priests have changed. Widnes parishioners would like to invite you to hear their story and ask questions. Has it worked? What can we learn? Is this a model that should be copied? What is it like to be a parishioner/priest/deacon in Widnes? Can this model teach us anything about Families of Parishes? All are

welcome. Come along to St John Fisher Hall, Widnes WA8 3JA this Thursday, 29 February, at 7.30 pm.

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, this Friday, 1 March, at 7.30 pm. All are very welcome. For more information about the day: www.wwdp.org.uk

LGBTQ+ Catholics

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

Confirmation 2024

Help! Very few young people have signed up for Confirmation this year. So far, only 2 have signed up from St Benedict's and 5 have signed up from St Oswald's out of a possible 60 young people! Can you help to spread the word?

Young people in Year 8 are encouraged 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 they 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: Rev Tony Kerrigan & Rev David Boyle.
- 2) Parish Office:** Mrs Bernie Griffin. Tuesday to Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm. Tel: 01925 630127. Email address: blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.uk
- 3) Parish Website** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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 25 February 2nd Sunday of Lent (B)	10.30 am Mass Mary Monks	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Terence Ryan 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 26 February		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 27 February	2.00 pm Funeral Mass Wilfred Dolley	11.00 am Mass Brian & Bernard White
Wednesday 28 February	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Canon James Taylor	
Thursday 29 February		11.00 am Mass Patrick O'Neill 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 1 March Feast of St David, Patron of Wales	11.00 am Mass Joe Butler 11.40 am Stations of the Cross	7.30 pm World Day of Prayer <i>Ecumenical Service at St Martin's, Gig Lane, Woolston</i>
Saturday 2 March		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Peggy McGinty
Sunday 3 March 3rd Sunday of Lent (B)	10.30 am First Communion Presentation Mass John & Doris Ryan, Catherine Shireby	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

18.02.24	£1072.21	(£390.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£148.00	
Total	£1349.90	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This weekend: Annual Mission Appeal
Next weekend: CAFOD'S Lent Fast Day

LENTEN ALMS

During Lent, there will be a wall box in St Benedict's and a basket in St Oswald's for Lenten Alms. The money donated will go to support the children of Gaza who have suffered so much in recent months.

FUNDRAISING

St Benedict's – Many thanks to all those who were able to come to the recent Race Night and to everyone who contributed. A grand total of £794.30 was raised!

St Oswald's – We're having an Easter Hamper Raffle to help raise funds for this year's Padgate Walking Day. The day costs the parish just over a £1000! Donations for the hamper would be gratefully received.

EVENTS & CAREERS

For events across the Archdiocese as well as career opportunities: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are hoping to reintroduce communion under both kinds at Mass on Holy Thursday. If you are a

Eucharistic Minister and would like to help, please let Fr Dave know. Thanks.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today **2nd Sunday of Lent (B)**
Readings Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18
Romans 8: 31-34
Mark 9: 2-10

Weekdays Lent – Week 2

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 Mouldsdale, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Dolores Woodall.

St Oswald's

Keith Bate, Catherine Carne, Dave Ferris, Betty Fiddler, Sam Johnson, 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:

Wilfred Dolley, Miriam Jones, Delia Margaret Dixon, Maureen Lennon, Marie Stubbins.