

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Wednesday 14 February 2024

Introductory Rites

Greeting & Introduction

Collect

Gracious and merciful God,
you look with love upon a sinful people
and desire only their return to you.

We beg of you the grace to live this holy season,
to persevere in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
By the discipline of Lent
purify our hearts of all pretension,
bring us back to you,
and make the whole Church ready
to celebrate the mysteries of Easter.

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

(Joel 2: 12-18)

A reading from the prophet Joel

'Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –
come back to me with all your heart,
fasting, weeping, mourning.'
Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn,
turn to the Lord your God again,
for he is all tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in graciousness,
and ready to relent.
Who knows if he will not turn again, will not relent,
will not leave a blessing as he passes,
oblation and libation
for the Lord your God?

Sound the trumpet in Zion!
Order a fast,
proclaim a solemn assembly,
call the people together,

summon the community,
assemble the elders,
gather the children,
even the infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom
and the bride her alcove.
Between vestibule and altar let the priests,
the ministers of the Lord, lament.
Let them say,
'Spare your people, Lord!
Do not make your heritage a thing of shame,
a byword for the nations.
Why should it be said among the nations,
"Where is their God?"'

Then the Lord, jealous on behalf of his land,
took pity on his people.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50 (51)

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion
wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.
- 2 For I acknowledge my offense,
and my sin is before me always:
"Against you only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight."

Second Reading

(2 Corinthians 5: 20-6: 2)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians

We are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were
appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in
Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God
made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might
become the goodness of God. As his fellow workers, we
beg you once again not to neglect the grace of God that
you have received. For he says: At the favourable time, I
have listened to you; on the day of salvation I came to
your help. Well, now is the favourable time; this is the
day of salvation.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Gospel

(Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be careful not to parade your
good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing
this you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven.
So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before
you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues
and in the streets to win men's admiration. I tell you

solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

'And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them; I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you pray, go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

'When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they pull long faces to let men know they are fasting. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that no one will know you are fasting except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Blessing of Ashes

O God, who desire not the death of sinners, but their conversion, mercifully hear our prayers and in your kindness be pleased to bless + these ashes, which we intend to receive upon our heads, that we, who acknowledge we are but ashes and shall return to dust, may, through a steadfast observance of Lent, gain pardon for sins and newness of life after the likeness of your Risen Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Distribution of Ashes

Music: Miserere – Gregorio Allegri (c. 1638)

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: Have mercy on us, Lord/Attende Domine – Randall DeBruyn, Melvin Farrell SS, Craig Kingsbury

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord God, as Lent begins, we offer you this solemn sacrifice, begging that through our works of charity and penance we may turn away from sin and harmful pleasures and unite ourselves more closely to the Passion of your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy – Mass of Christ our 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 Mystery of Faith

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

Our Father

Notre père... Tève Mūsū... Vater unser... Ojczy nasz...
Padre nostro... 我們的天父

Sign of Peace

Please exchange the Sign of Peace with those around you in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

Communion

Music: Lord Jesus think on me – Synesius of Cyrene (c. 375-430)

Prayer after Communion

Lord, may the sacrament we have received in faith sustain and strengthen us, so that our Lenten fast may win favour in your sight and help to remedy our human weakness. Through Christ our Lord.

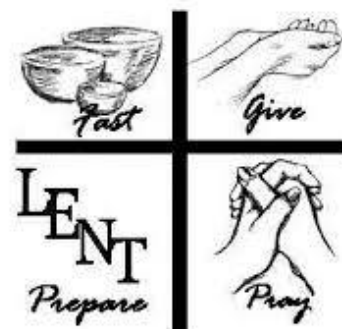
R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Recessional

Music: Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier – Bach & Regner



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