

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

Palm Sunday (B)
24 March 2024

My dear sisters and brothers,

Holy Week

Today marks the beginning of the holiest week of the year for Christians. We remember and celebrate what Jesus did out of love for us – how he suffered, died, and rose to new life.

Palm Sunday

On this first day of Holy Week, we recall Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem. The people welcomed Jesus by waving palm leaves and singing 'Hosanna!' We too hold palms and sing 'Hosanna' as we go with Jesus into Holy Week.

Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday evening, we recall the way Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and shared the Last Supper. After Mass, we stay for a short while 'watching' with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday

All over the world at 3.00 pm on Good Friday, Christians stop whatever they are doing (if they can) to celebrate the Passion of the Lord. In a simple but ancient liturgy, we listen to St John's account of the Passion of the Lord, pray for the needs of the world, and venerate the Cross.

Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday

Finally, on Holy Saturday night – the holiest night of the year for Christians – we keep the 'mother of all vigils' (St Augustine). The big Easter candle will be lit. In the light of that candle, we will listen to the stories of what God has done for his people through the ages. Then we will renew our baptismal promises, welcome new members into the Church, and celebrate Christ's risen presence with us in the eucharist. This great celebration continues at Mass on Easter Sunday.

You will find the details of the various liturgies on the reverse side of this sheet.

If you will be celebrating Holy Week at home this year, I will be posting liturgies you can use on the Parish website. I've also posted these prayer sheets to those on the mailing list.

Chrism Mass

Many thanks to all those who've signed up to come to the Chrism Mass on Wednesday. The coach will depart promptly from St Oswald's at 6.10 pm and St Benedict's at 6.20 pm. We hope to be back in Warrington by 10.00 pm. If you're able to contribute towards the cost of the coach, I suggest £5 per adult.

Communion under both kinds

On Holy Thursday, we will reintroduce communion under both kinds to allow parishioners the choice of receiving from the chalice in addition to the host. Given the sensitivities following the pandemic, we will do this carefully and gradually. Reservations about receiving communion from the chalice come from a fear of possibly catching germs. Professional, peer-reviewed medical research from epidemiologists has concluded that there is no known outbreak of disease directly related to this liturgical practice. However, common sense would suggest that individuals who have a cold or other spreadable symptoms should refrain from receiving from the chalice.

*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.

6) **Communion at Home** – If you are not able to come to Mass and would like to receive communion at home, please phone the Parish Office (630127).

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday (B)	10.30 am Mass Angela Ryan	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Philomena McCarron 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday, 25 March		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 26 March	Cantonese Celebration 4.00 pm Confessions 5.00 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm Mass	11.00 am Mass Joseph Ramsay 2.00 pm Passion Play in School 7.30 pm Penance Service
Wednesday 27 March	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass (Alan Lloyd) 2.15 pm Mass in School 7.30 pm Chrism Mass (Cathedral)	
Holy Thursday, 28 March	7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Robin & Jane Walford (‘Watching’ until 9.30 pm)	
Good Friday, 29 March <i>Day of Fast and Abstinence</i>	11.00 am Stations of the Cross for Children	12.00 noon Stations of the Cross 3.00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday, 30 March		(NB. No 4.30 pm Mass) 8.00 pm The Easter Vigil The Parishioners
Easter Sunday, 31 March	10.30 am Mass Peace in the Holy Land	8.30 am Mass Eileen Lawton

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

17.03.24	£787.43	(£347.95 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.69	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£151.00	
Total	£1068.12	
Donation	£150.00	(from the Irish Club)
Parish Caritas	£135.00	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

On Good Friday, in Catholic Churches all over the world, there is a collection at the end of the afternoon liturgy to support the Holy Places and the Christians living in the Holy Land.

EASTER BUNNY WALK

An Easter Bunny Walk to raise money for the Liverpool Lourdes Pilgrimage will take place on Monday 1 April at 11.00 am. The walk will go from St Gregory the Great, Lydiate L31 2NA to Our Lady's and back. Guests of all ages and well-behaved dogs are welcome. Each person will get a water bottle, bunny ears, and an Easter egg! Cost: £8 per person or £20 for a family of 4. To register, please email: Mpmurphyat@aol.com

EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE

Tickets are on sale at St Oswald's for the Easter Hamper Raffle which will help to fund the expenses for this year's Padgate Walking Day. Many thanks to all who have been able to contribute.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today	Palm Sunday (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 50: 4-7 Philippians 2: 6-11 Mark 15: 1-15: 47
Weekdays	Holy Week

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Rosa-Maria Berry, 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, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts, Margaret Whitlow.

Other Parishes

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

Those who have died recently, especially:

Mary Teresa Adkins