

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

2nd Sunday of Easter (B)

7 April 2024

My dear sisters and brothers,

Holy Week

Thank you so much to everyone who came to celebrate the Holy Week liturgies. While the numbers attending were a little lower on Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil this year, records were broken on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday! In fact, St Benedict's recorded 272 people on Easter Sunday morning – the highest we've ever had!

My heartfelt thanks to all those who helped with the liturgies. In particular, the teams of cleaners who keep our churches looking pristine; the ladies who decorated the churches with the most beautiful Easter flowers; the Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, and Musicians; the children who joined the procession on Palm Sunday, presented the Holy Oils on Holy Thursday and helped to lead the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday; those who humbly allowed me to wash their feet; Noah and Ryan for carrying the Cross on Good Friday; our Deacons, Stewards, and all who helped to make the liturgies so beautiful and prayerful.

Eucharistic Ministers

As we gradually begin to reintroduce communion under both kinds, I invite those who are Eucharistic Ministers to a short meeting at St Benedict's on Thursday 18 April at 7.00 pm.

LGBTQ+ Catholics

The next gathering for LGBTQ+ Catholics will take place on Sunday 28 April at St John Stone, Ainsdale PR8 3RN. There will be Mass at 2.00 pm followed by a social gathering. All are most welcome.

Our Catholic Schools

The Digest of the 2023 Census Data for Schools and Colleges in England is now available on the CES

website: www.catholiceducation.org.uk The data remains the most accurate and reliable depiction of England's 2,087 Catholic schools, colleges and academies.

Key findings include:

† 821,549 pupils are educated in English Catholic schools, making up 9% of the state-funded sector.

† 58% of pupils at state-funded Catholic schools are Catholic. 47,307 teachers are employed, 46% of whom are Catholic.

† 45.5% of pupils are from ethnic minorities, compared with a 37.4% England average.

† Contrary to media reports, Catholic schools take in 50% more pupils from the most deprived areas and approximately a quarter fewer pupil from more affluent areas, compared with the state sector.

† Catholic schools also outperform national GCSE English, Maths and Religious Education.

Parish Synodal Council

When our three parishes came together as one parish in 2018, we set up a new Parish Council. The council met bimonthly until the pandemic hit in March 2020. I would like to resurrect the council in the coming months but as a Parish Synodal Council to reflect the new culture of synodality that Pope Francis is encouraging us to foster in the life of the Church. If you would be interested in joining the Council, please let me know. Thank you.

May the peace of the risen Lord Jesus be with you.

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 7 April 2nd Sunday of Easter (B)	10.30 am Mass Teresa Moss	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Cathy Gorse 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 8 April The Annunciation of the Lord		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 9 April		11.00 am Mass Terence Ryan
Wednesday 10 April	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Catherine Eason	
Thursday 11 April St Stanislaus		No Mass today <i>(Fr Dave attending Chapter Mass)</i> 5.45 pm First Reconciliation 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 12 April	11.00 am Mass Marion Naughton	
Saturday 13 April		4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners
Sunday 14 April 3rd Sunday of Easter (B)	10.30 am Mass Special Intention	8.30 am Mass Ian Whelan

The Season of Easter lasts for 50 days and concludes with the great feast of Pentecost.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Last week's 'Offertory' details will be in next week's Newsletter.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGES

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 16 June 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

LAY CHAPLAIN FOR LORETO GRAMMAR

Loreto Grammar School are seeking to appoint a Lay Chaplain. For further information and application pack: www.loretogrammar.co.uk/812/vacancies Please note: the closing date for applications is Tuesday 9 April at 10.00 am.

CARE UK

Care UK is a local charity supporting refugees (at home and abroad), asylum seekers and those struggling in our own local community: www.careukcharity.org.uk Items urgently needed for cleaning packs: washing up liquid, laundry detergent, floor cleaner, bleach/toilet cleaner, multipurpose spray cleaner. scouring pads, bins and bin liners, mop and buckets, washing up

bowls. If you are able to provide any of these items, you can leave them in church. Many thanks.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today

2nd Sunday of Easter (B)

Readings

Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 5: 1-6
John 20: 19-31

Weekdays

Easter – Week 2

Alleluia!

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, Jim Hyland, 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, Peter Cox, 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, Margaret Mobbs, Sr Maire Moms, Elizabeth Nash, Margaret Smith, Pamela Watson.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Fr Barry McAllister, Michael John Cook.