

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**4th Sunday of Easter (B)
21 April 2024**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today, the 4th Sunday of Easter, is known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' because we listen to the Gospel in which Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. It is also the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, and the religious life. There will be a **Second Collection** as you leave church for the Priests' Training Fund.

We currently have three men in formation for the priesthood, including our own Dan Howarth, and two candidates hoping to begin seminary in September. We also have four ordinations in the Cathedral on 13 July – James Finnegan, Martin Fyles, Peter Ross and Lister Tonge.

If you think God might be calling you to serve as a priest and are ready to explore this further, please contact the Vocations' Director on 0151 727 2493 or email vocations@rcaol.org.uk

The People of Palestine

While the world is focused on the tit-for-tat between Israel and Iran, the people of Palestine continue to suffer. This week, Israel bombed refugee camps in Gaza, prevented aid reaching those who are starving, and failed to stop 'settlers' from attacking and killing Palestinians in the West Bank. To date, 33,899 people have been killed in Gaza (including 13,450 children), 76,664 have been injured, mass graves have been uncovered at hospitals, and for the most part none of this has made the news.

Fr Gabriel Romanelli

Fr Gabriel Romanelli, the parish priest of Holy Family Parish, Gaza, will be visiting the UK next week. He will

meet the Bishops to thank them for their continued support; and speak to MPs and Lords in Parliament before a brief visit to Glasgow. Then he will spend a few days at English Martyrs in Litherland before returning to the Holy Land. Next Sunday, 28 April, he will join Bishop Tom Neylon for Mass at English Martyrs at 10.30 am. All are welcome.

Rwanda Bill

The Government's Rwanda Bill continues to cause me great sorrow. Ministers seem to be completely ignorant of the plight of those coming to our shores. If they took the time to speak to asylum seekers and refugees, they might just rethink their current policy. Our Lord asks us to welcome the stranger in our midst. Most of those who come to our shores are desperate, often because of wars and political situations the UK has sponsored! How would we feel if we were in their shoes?

Deanery Mass

This month's Deanery Mass takes place this coming Friday, 26 April, at 12.00 noon at St Stephen's, Orford. Do come along if you can and join the people and priests of the deanery in prayer.

First Communion

Finally, many congratulations to the children in Year 4 at St Oswald's who are celebrating their First Communion this weekend.

*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 21 April 4th Sunday of Easter (B) <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	10.30 am Mass Helen Catherine Swift	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Patricia & Clarence Knowles 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 22 April		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 23 April Solemnity of St George, Patron of England		11.00 am Mass Patricia Fox
Wednesday 24 April	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Margaret Jenkins	
Thursday 25 April Feast of St Mark, Evangelist		11.00 am Mass Tony Hulme 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 26 April	12.00 noon Deanery Mass <i>at St Stephen's, Orford</i>	
Saturday 27 April <i>Isle of Man: St Maughold</i>		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Pat Crawford
Sunday 28 April 5th Sunday of Easter (B)	10.30 am Mass Mary Howl	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

14.04.24	£710.13	(£315.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£129.00	(£89.31 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£261.00	
Total	£1100.13	
Lenten Alms	£491.27	(Children of Gaza)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

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.

PARISH OUTING

St Benedict's is organising a Parish Outing to the Lake District on Monday 13 May to visit the Laurel & Hardy Museum and Wax Lyrical Factory Outlet in Ulverston. Cost including entry fee from £23.00. Please sign the list at the back of church if you interested.

DAY OF CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Saturday 11 May, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm at The Irenaeus Centre, Great Georges Road, Crosby L22 1RD. Join Irenaeus for a day of renewal as we invite the Holy Spirit to work among us and enlighten us. Guest speaker: Michelle Moran. This event is open to everyone, whether you're new to Charismatic Renewal or have been involved in the past. For more

information and to register, please contact Moira at moira@ireaneus.co.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	4th Sunday of Easter (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 4: 8-12; 1 John 3: 1-2 John 10: 11-18
Weekdays	Easter – Week 4

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, Margaret Jones, 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.