

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**5th Sunday of Easter (B)
28 April 2024**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Rwanda Bill

Leaders of the Catholic Church, Church of England, Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches have issued the following statement:

"We retain deep misgivings about the safety of the Rwanda Bill, passed in Parliament on Monday night, for the precedent it sets at home and for other countries in how we respond to the most vulnerable. This includes victims of modern slavery and children wrongly assessed as adults, whom we have a duty to protect.

As leaders in Christian churches, we wish to express our profound gratitude to those who live out Jesus's call to feed and clothe the poor, and to welcome the stranger, through their work with asylum seekers and refugees, at times in the face of opposition and prejudice.

We note with sadness and concern the rise in hostility towards those who come to these islands seeking refuge and the way in which the treatment of the refugee and asylum seeker has been used as a political football.

We are disappointed that the kindness and support offered by churches and charities to the people at the heart of this debate – those fleeing war, persecution and violence trying to find a place of safety – has been unjustly maligned by some for political reasons.

The statement goes on to speak about those who have portrayed churches as deliberately facilitating false asylum claims and that the Home Office has confirmed that it has no evidence to support such abuse.

Like so many in this country, we seek to support a system that shows compassion, justice, transparency

and speed in its decisions. We grieve the appalling loss of life in the Channel today.

There may be differences between our churches and Government on the means by which our asylum system can be fair, effective and respecting of human dignity, but we do agree that borders must be managed and that vulnerable people need protection from people smugglers. We have pledged to continue to work with the Home Office, and we do so in good faith."

Pastoral Reflection on Gender

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a pastoral reflection on gender entitled "*Intricately Woven by the Lord: A Pastoral Reflection on Gender*". Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton, said: "We have published this document because we know that those working in pastoral settings can find this issue complex. It is also an issue that needs to be handled sensitively. Accompaniment is crucial to the journey of faith, and we wish to emphasise that everyone is welcome in the Church. It is vital that as followers of Christ we imitate the boundless mercy and compassion of God as we deal with the complexity of another's life. But this needs to be done with a clear understanding of the Catholic vision and understanding of the human person and a holistic view of human sexuality." You can read and download the full document at www.cbcew.org.uk There is also a three-page summary at the back of church.

*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 28 April 5th Sunday of Easter (B)	10.30 am Mass Mary Howl	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Pat Crawford 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 29 April Feast of St Catherine of Siena		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 30 April Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse		11.00 am Mass Philomena McCarron
Wednesday 1 May St Joseph the Worker	10.15 – 11.00 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Teresa & George Williams	
Thursday 2 May St Athanasius		11.00 am Mass Miriam Jones 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 3 May Feast of SS Philip & James, Apostles	11.00 am Mass Helen Catherine Swift	<i>Mass at St Gregory's High School</i>
Saturday 4 May The English Martyrs		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Mary O'Connor
Sunday 5 May 6th Sunday of Easter (B)	10.30 am Mass Marion Williams	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

21.04.24	£571.51	<i>(£157.00 Gift Aid)</i>
Standing Orders	£129.00	<i>(£89.31 Gift Aid)</i>
Digital Giving	£220.00	<i>(£74.00 Gift Aid)</i>
Total	£920.51	
2nd Collection	£371.90	<i>(Priests' Training Fund)</i>
1st Communion	£338.40	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

FAMILY OF PARISHES SPRING WALK

Our next 'Family of Parishes' event is a Spring Walk on Sunday 12 May at 2.00 pm. Starting at St Oswald's, we will walk The New Cut and Ecology Trail to St Peter's where refreshments will be served. Please sign the list at the back of church if you want a seat on the minibus to take you back to your car at St Oswald's.

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.

CAFOD CRISIS APPEAL FOR SUDAN

CAFOD has launched an emergency appeal to support families in Sudan which is in the grip of the world's worst hunger and displacement crisis. Donations can be made online at www.cafod.org.uk/SudanAppeal or placed in an envelope marked 'Sudan' and handed in at church.

REDEDICATION OF CATHEDRAL ORGAN

The grand organ of the Metropolitan Cathedral will be rededicated on Sunday 12 May following its recent restoration. There will be Choral Evening Prayer at 3.00 pm followed by a recital given by international concert artist, Martin Baker. Admission free, retiring collection.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	5th Sunday of Easter (B)
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 9: 26-31; 1 John 3: 18-24 John 15: 1-8
Weekdays	Easter – Week 5

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.