

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



4th Sunday of Advent (C)

22 December 2024

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession *(The Great 'O' Antiphons)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel (112) verses 1, 5 & 7

Greeting & Introduction

Lighting of the Advent Wreath



Penitential Act

Music: Advent Wreath Service (65)

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
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

(Micah 5: 2-5)

A reading from the prophet Micah

Thus says the LORD:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the
strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80

Lord, make us turn to you;

let us see your face and we shall be saved.

- 1 O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.
- 2 Once again, O Lord of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

Second Reading

(Hebrews 10: 5-10)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world,
he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt
offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O
God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book." '

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor
taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt
offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered
according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have
come to do your will'. He does away with the first in
order to establish the second. And by that will we have
been sanctified through the offering of the body of
Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Luke 1: 39-45)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the
hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the
house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when
Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped
in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are
you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your
womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother
of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the
sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in
my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who
believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was
spoken to her from the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Blessing & Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Holy God,
bless + this tree.
May its evergreen branches
be a sign of your everlasting love.
May its colourful lights and ornaments call us
to decorate our homes and our world with your love.
As we prepare to celebrate this joyful season,
keep us safe in our gatherings,
kind in our conversations,
and gracious in our giving and receiving.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Come, Lord Jesus! **R. Maranatha!**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Advent Carol: The angel Gabriel (113)

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power the womb of Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.
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

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Our Father

Notre père... Tève Mūsų... 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

Advent Chant: Rorate Coeli (based on Isaiah 45: 8)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain righteousness:
may the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.
Show us, Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Come, Lord, and do not delay.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God, that,
as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration
of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Oh Mary when our God chose you (329) verses 1-3, 5

Acknowledgements

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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024



Christmas Eve

4.30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Oswald's
11.30 pm Christmas Midnight Mass at St Benedict's

Christmas Day

8.30 am Christmas Dawn Mass at St Oswald's
10.30 am Christmas Day Mass at St Benedict's