

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

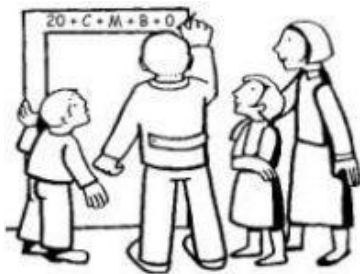
The Epiphany of the Lord 5 January 2025

My dear sisters and brothers,

The Epiphany of the Lord

The great feast of Christmas continues today with the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord and concludes next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The Blessing of Homes is a time-honoured custom on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. It reminds us that Christ is with us in the love and care we show one another in our ordinary everyday lives together.



Why not have a little celebration at home today? One custom is to trace the Cross together with the initials "CMB" and the numerals of the year on the doorway of your home (using chalk, holy water, or simply with your finger), and then share your usual family meal together. "CMB" stands for "Christus mansionem benedicat" – "May Christ bless this house!" It also represents the names given to the wise men – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. So, the blessing for 2025 would look like this: $20 + C + M + B + 25$

New Archbishop

According to Canon Law, bishops must tender their resignation to the Pope when they reach the age of 75. Archbishop Malcolm reached the age of 75 last June and duly sent in his letter to Pope Francis.

At the Synod in Rome last October, participants said: "The Assembly desires that the People of God have a greater voice in choosing Bishop" (70).

Therefore, you are invited to contribute to the process of choosing a new Archbishop for our diocese. There will be two meetings: **Thursday 16 January** at St Mary's Leyland PR25 1PD (7.00 – 9.30 pm) and **Saturday 18 January** at St Margaret Clitherow Centre L17 1AA (10.30 am – 1.00 pm). Both gatherings will be the same, so you only need to attend one of them.

There will be two parts to the meetings: looking at where we are as a diocese and our future development; and considering the qualities needed in a future Archbishop.

To reserve a place at one of the meetings, please fill in the online form at: bit.ly/ASCMeetingAOL

If you are unable to take part in person but would like to take part in the Saturday meeting by Zoom, please follow the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89983555285?pwd=GbHwdzCo42YoaRMvllq8GgZBz5M5NW.1>

And finally...

This week, I will be taking a much-needed break so there will be no Masses during the week and the Parish Office will only be open on Tuesday and Thursday. In case of emergency, please contact one of the other priests in the Deanery. You can find their details under the 'Contact' heading on the Parish website.

A very Happy New Year to you all.

*God bless you and yours,
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:** Miss Bernie Griffin. *This week:* Tuesday & Thursday, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. Tel: 01925 630127. Email address: blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.uk

3) **Parish Website:** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk

4) **St Benedict's Church** is open for private prayer. *This week:* Tuesday & Thursday, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm only.

5) Sacrament of Reconciliation

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.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

| | St Benedict's | St Oswald's |
|--|---|--|
| Sunday 5 January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord | 10.30 am Mass <i>(with Children's Liturgy)</i> Stephen Melia | (Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Brian Fitzgerald 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners |
| Monday 6 January Weekday after Epiphany | | |
| Tuesday 7 January Weekday after Epiphany | | <i>No Mass today</i> |
| Wednesday 8 January Weekday after Epiphany | <i>No Exposition or Mass today</i> | |
| Thursday 9 January Weekday after Epiphany | | <i>No Mass today</i> 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction |
| Friday 10 January Weekday after Epiphany | <i>No Mass today</i> | |
| Saturday 11 January Weekday after Epiphany | | 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Colette Ross |
| Sunday 12 January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (C) | 10.30 am Mass Frank Heeley | 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners |

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 22.12.24 | £833.24 | <i>(£347.52 Gift Aid)</i> |
| Standing Orders | £191.25 | <i>(£162.50 Gift Aid)</i> |
| Digital Giving | £376.00 | <i>(£271.00 Gift Aid)</i> |
| Total | £1400.49 | |
| 25.12.24 | £1707.40 | <i>(£535.90 Gift Aid)</i> |
| Digital Giving | £293.00 | <i>(£175.00 Gift Aid)</i> |
| Total | £2000.40 | |
| 29.12.24 | £700.80 | <i>(£335.50 Gift Aid)</i> |
| Standing Orders | £191.25 | <i>(£162.50 Gift Aid)</i> |
| Digital Giving | £186.00 | <i>(£116.00 Gift Aid)</i> |
| Total | £1078.05 | |
| Donation | £190.00 | <i>(Cantonese Mass)</i> |

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

December Winners: £50 Clem Lawton, £25 Louis Lou, £15 John Cartledge, £10 Mary McMillan. Many thanks everyone.

NO ROOM AT THE INN

Into this world, this demented inn
in which there is absolutely no room for him at all,
Christ comes uninvited.

But because he cannot be at home in it,
because he is out of place in it,
and yet he must be in it,
His place is with the others for whom
there is no room.

His place is with those who do not belong,
who are rejected by power, because
they are regarded as weak,
those who are discredited,
who are denied status of persons,
who are tortured, bombed and exterminated.
With those for whom there is no room,

Christ is present in this world.
Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today

The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

Weekdays

Christmas Time (after Epiphany)

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Kath Bradshaw, Malcolm Hackwell, Jean Hendricks,
Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Ged Hughes, Jim Hyland,
Susan Keating, Sheila Mellor, Trina Mouldsdale,
Christine Murphy, Ann Pearson, Sandra Richardson,
Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Peter
Ward, Dolores Woodall.

St Oswald's

Andrew Bate, Keith Bate, Catherine Carne, Peter Cox,
Dave Ferris, Marguerite Jones, Jo Roberts, Claire Taylor,
Margaret Watts, Wilf Whelan.

Other Parishes

Marie Barnes, Catherine Donaldson, June Fallon, James
Hutchison, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Margaret Mobbs,
Elizabeth Nash, Margaret Smith, Pamela Watson.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Jean Birmingham (*Funeral Service on Tuesday 14 January
at 10.30 am at St Benedict's*), Cathy Spencer (*Funeral Mass
on Thursday 16 January at 12.45 pm at St Oswald's*), Joan
Flanagan (*Funeral Mass on Tuesday 21 January at 1.15 pm
at St Benedict's*).