

East Warrington Family of Parishes  
**PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL**

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



## Newsletter

**3rd Sunday of Lent (C)**  
**23 March 2025**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### 'Helping Hands'

I know that some parishioners have been distressed to read about St Benedict's on social media and in the local newspapers as well as the associated comments that accompany such posts.

At last weekend's Masses, I made the following statement: *"The Archdiocese has asked the group, 'Helping Hands', to vacate St Benedict's Parish Centre with immediate effect. They have done this for two reasons. First, the group registered their company with Companies House using the Parish Centre address as their registered office without the consent or knowledge of the Parish or the Archdiocese. This has implications for us as a registered charity. Second, the group were given temporary permission to use the Parish Centre for two lunchtimes per week. I have since learnt that they have been accessing the Parish Centre far more than what was agreed which has led to problems for the Parish as well as a significant number of complaints to the Council and Police about parking from local residents. While 'Helping Hands' does a lot of good work, the present situation is not acceptable, and I have agreed that they should find more suitable accommodation for their activities with immediate effect."*

On Monday, the Warrington Guardian contacted the Archdiocese for a response to the social media post by 'Helping Hands'. The Archdiocese and I agreed a fuller statement which was published in the Guardian during the week.

I am very grateful to those of you who've asked if I'm okay and offered their support. The backlash is unfortunate but a sign of the times in which we live. I haven't read the social media post or comments – I

know they would simply be upsetting and mostly ill-informed. It's a pity 'Helping Hands' haven't acknowledged the support we've given them, not least by providing free room hire together with heat and light which is not cheap. I have no doubt the right decision has been made and that the 'keyboard warriors' will have moved on to something else by now.

### Pope Francis

Last Sunday, Pope Francis sent a message from hospital to be read in place of his usual Sunday Angelus address. He wrote: "I am sharing these thoughts with you while I am facing a period of trial, and I join with so many brothers and sisters who are sick: fragile, at this time, like me. Our bodies are weak but, even like this, nothing can prevent us from loving, praying, giving ourselves, being for each other, in faith, shining signs of hope. How much light shines, in this sense, in hospitals and places of care! How much loving care illuminates the rooms, the corridors, the clinics, the places where the humblest services are performed! That is why I would like to invite you, today, to join me in praising the Lord, who never abandons us and who, in times of sorrow, places people beside us who reflect a ray of His love."

### Chrism Mass

This year's Chrism Mass will take place in the Cathedral on Wednesday 16 April at 7.30 pm. If you would like a place on the coach, please sign the sheet at the back of church. The coach will depart from St Oswald's at 6.10 pm and St Benedict's at 6.20 pm. Hopefully, we should be back by 10.00 pm. If you are able to contribute towards the cost of the coach, I suggest £5 per adult.

*With my prayers  
Fr Dave*

### General Information

- 1) **Parish Priest:** Canon Dave Heywood. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: [frdave@rcaol.org.uk](mailto: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. Tuesday to Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm. Tel: 01925 630127. Email address: [blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.uk)
- 3) **Parish Website:** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk)
- 4) **St Benedict's Church** is open for private prayer: Tuesday to Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm.
- 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**

	<b>St Benedict's</b>	<b>St Oswald's</b>
<b>Sunday 23 March</b> 3rd Sunday of Lent (C)	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Olive Elizabeth Swift	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> The Parishioners <b>8.30 am Mass</b> Gilbert Cox
<b>Monday 24 March</b> St Oscar Romero		
<b>Tuesday 25 March</b> The Annunciation of the Lord		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> David Searle
<b>Wednesday 26 March</b>	<b>10.15 am Exposition</b> <b>11.00 am Mass</b> (Tracy Fearon) <b>1.15 pm Funeral Mass</b> James Brian Cunningham	
<b>Thursday 27 March</b>		<b>11.00 am</b> Alan Lloyd <b>7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Friday 28 March</b>	<b>12.00 noon Deanery Mass</b> at St John Fisher, Widnes	
<b>Saturday 29 March</b>		<b>4.30 pm First Communion</b> <b>Preparation Mass</b> Eileen Lawton
<b>Sunday 30 March</b> 4th Sunday of Lent (C) <i>Laetare Sunday</i> Mother's Day	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Mary & John Bostock <b>12.30 pm First Communion</b> <b>Preparation Mass</b>	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

09.03.25	£692.71	(£293.25 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£207.00	(£147.00 Gift Aid)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1090.96</b>	
16.03.25	£761.97	(£256.70 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£266.00	(£146.00 Gift Aid)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1219.22</b>	
2nd Collection	£873.86	(CAFOD)

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

**SECOND COLLECTION**

Next weekend, there will be the annual collection for 'Nugent' – the social welfare agency of the Archdiocese.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

Offertory envelopes for the new tax year are available at the back of church. Boxes with names on are Gift Aid envelopes; boxes without names on are non-Gift Aid for anyone to use.

**FAMILY OF PARISHES**

Our Family of Parishes (St Stephen's, Blessed James Bell & St Peter's) are invited to come together to pray the Stations of the Cross on Saturday 12 April at 10.00 am at St Peter's, Weir Lane, Woolston WA1 4QQ.

**PARISH SOCIAL GROUP**

Wednesdays: 11.30 am – 1.00 pm in the Sacristy Meeting Room at St Benedict's. All are welcome.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent (C)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12 Luke 13: 1-9
<b>Weekdays</b>	Lent – Week 3

**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, Vincent Pinnock, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Peter Ward, Dolores Woodall.

*St Oswald's*

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

*Other Parishes*

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

**Those who have died recently, especially:**

James Brian Cunningham, Alfie Bolton, Fr Vin Fedigan, Francis Skidmore, Margaret Jones, Joanne Munday.