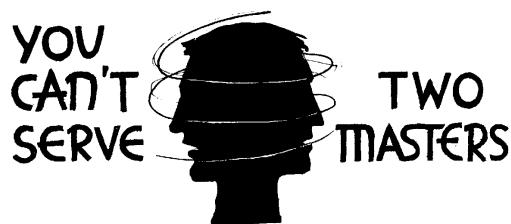


East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
21 September 2025

My dear sisters and brothers,

Home Mission Sunday

Today is Home Mission Day or 'Evangelii Gaudium Day' as it is now known. 'Evangelii Gaudium' is Latin for 'Joy of the Gospel'. Just as October's World Mission Day focusses on sharing the Gospel abroad, Home Mission Day focusses on sharing the Good News of Jesus in our own country.

The work of evangelisation in England and Wales is promoted through the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. There is a **Second Collection** today to help fund the work of the Directorate. Every contribution, big or small, goes directly to support the important work of bringing the joy of the Gospel to all.

'Christian Nationalism'

Last weekend's 'Unite the Kingdom' protest in London saw people carrying wooden crosses and shouting 'Christ is King'. I found this particularly concerning because the protest didn't represent Christian values. It would seem that the Christian Nationalism we're witnessing among some in the United States is perhaps catching on in the UK. Christian Nationalism doesn't represent the Gospel of Jesus, rather it subordinates the Gospel to popularism and political ideology. I think this prayer by Father Austin Fleming of the Archdiocese of Boston might be a good antidote:

Lord,
*tame my anger with a gentle spirit,
exchange my harsh speech for words that encourage,
slow my quick judgements with patient endurance,
curb my greed with generous outreach,
temper my thoughts with your counsel and wisdom,
dissolve my resentments with kindness and mercy,
shape my decisions with fairness and justice,
and keep me from playing the wolf or the tiger.
Help me only become who you made me to be. Amen.*

Pope Leo on Gaza

"I express my profound sympathy to the Palestinian people of Gaza, who continue to live in fear and survive in unacceptable conditions, forced to relocate—once again—from their own lands. Before the Almighty Lord, who has commanded "Thou shalt not kill," and before human history, every person always possesses an inviolable dignity that must be respected and safeguarded. I renew my call for a ceasefire, the release of the hostages, a negotiated diplomatic solution, and full respect for international humanitarian law. I invite everyone to join me in my heartfelt prayer for the speedy dawn of peace and justice" (17 September 2025).

Blessing of Animals

The annual Blessing of Animals will take place at St Benedict's on Sunday 5 October at 2.00 pm. This short service provides an opportunity to thank God for our animal friends, to bless those who are poorly, remember our beloved pets who have died, and pray for the many animals that suffer in our own country and across the world. The service will last about 25 minutes and will be followed by some treats for pets and refreshments for their servants! Please let people know about the service, especially those who have pets. Every year, people turn up who never go to church but who have heard about the service from parishioners.

Archbishop Malcolm

Mass of Thanksgiving for Archbishop Malcolm's ministry in the Archdiocese on Friday 3 October at 7.00 pm in the Cathedral. If you would like a place on the coach, please phone Bernie in the Parish Office (630127). Please don't leave it until the last minute!

*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:** Miss 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) **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

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 21 September 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) <i>Evangelii Gaudium Sunday</i> (Home Mission Sunday)	10.30 am Mass John & Doris Ryan, Catherine Shireby, Angela Ryan	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners 8.30 am Mass Kathleen Carey
Monday 22 September		
Tuesday 23 September St Pius of Pietrelcina ('Padre Peo')		11.00 am Mass Margaret Jones
Wednesday 24 September Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Thanksgiving (B & A)	
Thursday 25 September	11.30 pm Funeral Service James Wakefield	11.00 am Mass Angela Clifton 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 26 September	12.00 noon Deanery Mass <i>at Holy Family, Cronton</i>	
Saturday 27 September St Vincent de Paul		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Peter & Chloe Trussell
Sunday 28 September 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)	10.30 am Mass Wanda & Bogdan Kubera Lucyna Nawrot, Ewa Krol	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

14.09.25	£630.24	(£236.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£152.50	(£123.75 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£175.00	(£90.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£957.74	
2nd Collection	£290.80	(Catholic Education)
<i>Thank you so much for your generosity.</i>		

PADGATE METHODIST CHURCH

This year, Padgate Methodist Church is celebrating its 150th birthday! As part of the celebrations, there will be a Flower Festival in the church as follows: Friday 3 & Saturday 4 October, 10.00 – 4.00 pm, and Sunday 5 October, 12.00 – 4.00 pm. This will be well worth a visit, not only to support our sisters and brothers at the Methodist Church, but also because St Oswald's own flower arrangers (Briar Melbourne and Clare Lancaster) have decorated the great East window of the church!

LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 2026

The next Archdiocesan Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage will take place from 22 to 31 July 2026. Application forms are now online for young people aged 15-22 at www.liverpoolourdesyouth.co.uk The cost is £720 (with deposit of £100 with application). There is an Early Bird Discount of £50 for applications received before 20 October. For more information, see poster and flyers at the back of church or go to: www.animateyouth.org

LGBT+ CATHOLICS

Apologies for the short notice but the next Mass with LGBT+ Catholics and friends is today (Sunday) at All

Saints, Oakfield, Anfield, L4 2QG, beginning at 2.00 pm and followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
<i>Readings</i>	Amos 8: 4-7 1 Timothy 2: 1-8 Luke 16: 1-13
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 25

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, Trina Mouldsdales, Christine Murphy, Ann Pearson, Vincent Pinnock, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Dolores Woodall.

St Oswald's

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

Other Parishes

Mary Davies, Catherine Donaldson, June Fallon, James Hutchinson, Archbishop Kelly, Margaret Mobbs, Elizabeth Nash, Margaret Smith, Pamela Watson.

Those who have died recently, especially:

James Wakefield, Brian Cullen (*Funeral Service at St Benedict's on Tuesday 7 October at 2.15 pm*), Fr Laurence Mayne.