

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



## The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14 September 2025

### Introductory Rites

#### Gathering Song

When I survey the wondrous Cross (756) omit verse 4

#### Gloria

*If sung, please join in singing the refrain:*

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

*(Glory, glory, to God in the highest!)*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

#### Collect

O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son  
should undergo the Cross to save the human race,  
grant, we pray,  
that we, who have known his mystery on earth,

may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
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

*(Numbers 21: 4-9)*

A reading from the book of Numbers

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.' Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 78

##### Do not forget the works of the Lord!

- 1 Hearken, my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable,  
I will utter mysteries from of old.
- 2 While he slew them they sought him  
and inquired after God again,  
remembering that God was their rock  
and the Most High God, their redeemer.

#### Second Reading

*(Philippians 2: 6-11)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### Gospel Acclamation

## Gospel

(John 3: 13-17)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

### Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(All bow at the following words)  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## Bidding Prayers

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

#### Preparation of the Gifts

*Music:* 'Crucifixus' from Mass in B Minor – Bach

*"For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried."*

## Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, O Lord,  
which on the altar of the Cross  
cancelled the offence of the whole world,  
cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

*Mass of Hope – Bernadette Farrell (559)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
Holy Lord, Holy Lord, God of hosts.  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is he  
who comes in the name,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

*The Mystery of Faith*

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

## Our Father

Notre père... Tève Mûsq... 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

*Song:* The Servant King (749)

## Prayer after Communion

Having been nourished by your holy banquet,  
we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
to bring those you have redeemed  
by the wood of your life-giving Cross  
to the glory of the resurrection.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## Concluding Rite

## Blessing & Dismissal

## Final Song

O Lord my God (721) omit verse 2

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## Acknowledgements

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