

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

7 December 2025

My dear sisters and brothers,

Advent & Christmas

There are lots of events coming up in the next couple of weeks. I hope the following list is helpful.

► **Christmas Winter Wonderland** today (Sunday) from 12.00 noon at St Peter & St Michael's, Woolston. Meet Santa, Toy Stall, Christmas Crafts, Spin the Wheel, BBQ Burger, Cakes & Treats, Mulled Wine, Raffles & Prizes. All welcome.

► **St Oswald's School Christmas Performances** take place this week. See overleaf for those taking place in church.

► **Children's Christmas Party** on Sunday 14 December, 11.45 am – 1.30 pm, in St Benedict's Parish Centre. Performance, games and food. Free entry for children, £3 per adult.

► **Advent Penance Service** (*Service of Reconciliation*) at St Oswald's on Wednesday 17 December at 7.30 pm. This annual celebration is for the whole parish community and lasts about 50 minutes.

► **St Benedict's School Christmas Carol Service** led by Years 5 & 6 on Thursday 18 December at 6.00 pm in St Benedict's Church.

► **Candlelit Carol Service** for our Family of Parishes (*St Stephen's, Blessed James Bell & St Peter's*) at St Benedict's on Sunday 21 December at 4.00 pm. This short service of readings and carols will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Also, please see this month's 'Newsletter Extra' for events at the Cathedral and across the Archdiocese.

Support at Christmas

Christmas can be a hard time for a whole range of reasons. The mental health charity, 'Mind', has put together some resources to support people who may be struggling this Christmas. Here's the link:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/why-christmas-is-hard/>

Christmas Dinner at St Benedict's

A small group of teenagers are preparing a Christmas Dinner for those who will be on their own on Christmas Day. They will serve the dinner in the Sacristy Meeting Room at St Benedict's on Christmas Day, 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm. They will also deliver meals to those at home who don't feel able to come out. However, they need some help with the cooking! So, if you could prepare a dish of something for about ten people and deliver it on Christmas Day, there's a sign up at the back of church. Dishes can be delivered to St Benedict's before or after the 10.30 am Mass on Christmas Day. We will have a hostess trolley to keep the food hot.

Advent Collections

Finally, this year's Advent Collections conclude today. I am enormously grateful to all those who have been able to respond, especially when money is tight. We'll have the total for Gaza next weekend, and I will deliver your kind offerings for animals in need to Warrington Animal Welfare during the week.

*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.

6) **Parish Social Group:** Wednesdays 11.30 am – 1.00 pm in the Sacristy Meeting Room at St Benedict's. All welcome.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 7 December 2nd Sunday of Advent (A)	10.30 am Mass Gladys Daley	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Kathleen Postlethwaite 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 8 December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception		
Tuesday 9 December		11.00 am Mass Kathleen Conneely
Wednesday 10 December	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Kathleen Carey	2.30 pm Y1 & Y2 Nativity
Thursday 11 December		11.00 am Mass Jo & Barry Thompson 2.30 pm Y3 & Y4 Nativity 6.00 pm Y5 & Y6 Nativity
Friday 12 December	11.00 am Mass Private Intention (LISC)	
Saturday 13 December St Lucy		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Johnnie McCarthy
Sunday 14 December 3rd Sunday of Advent (A) <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	10.30 am Mass Paul Ryan	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

30.11.25	£733.97	(£373.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£152.50	(£123.75 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£160.00	(£81.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1046.47	
2nd Collection	£301.32	(Animate Youth)
Fundraising	£250.00	(St Benedict's 200 Club)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

November Winners: £50 Helen Cheung, £25 Sandra Smith, £15 John Molphy, £10 Alberta Wong. Many thanks everyone.

CONFIRMATION 2026

If you are in Year 8 (or older) and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in June/July 2026, please pick up an application form from the back of church or download it from the Parish website. Please complete the form and return it to Fr Dave by 31 January. Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today	2nd Sunday of Advent (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-9 Matthew 3: 1-12
Weekdays	Advent – Week 2

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

(Names can only be included with the person's consent)

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Teresa Barnsley, Kath Bradshaw, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Ged Hughes, Gail Hyamson, Jim Hyland, Vin Jackson, Susan Keating, Trina Mouldsdale, 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 Patrick Kelly, Margaret Mobbs, Elizabeth Nash, Margaret Smith, Pamela Watson, Carol Whitehouse.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Malcolm Hackwell (*Funeral Mass at St Benedict's on 23 December at 12.30 pm*), Deacon Bob Smith.