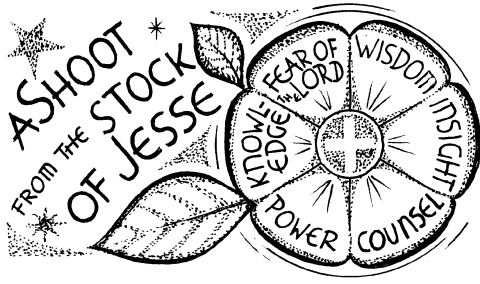


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

7 December 2025

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

Hark! a herald voice is calling (92)

Greeting & Introduction

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Penitential Act

Music: Advent Wreath Service (65)

Collect

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
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

(Isaiah 11: 1-10)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On that day:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,

and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf
together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child

shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the
LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a
signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations
enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72

**Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**

- 1 O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
he shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.
- 2 Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Second Reading

(Romans 15: 4-9)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former
days was written for our instruction, that through
endurance and through the encouragement of the
Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of
endurance and encouragement grant you to live in
such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ
Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore
welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for
the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the
circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to
confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in
order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.
As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the
Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Matthew 3: 1-12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the
wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of
heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by

the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Rite of Welcome

A Profession of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Come, Lord Jesus! **R. Maranatha!**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Advent Carol: Comfort, comfort now my people (97)

St B: O comfort my people (99)

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord,
with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,

come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy – Mass of Christ our Saviour (Dan Schutte)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes,

who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

The Mystery of Faith

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,

and profess your Resurrection

until you come again.

Our Father

Notre père... Tève Mūsų... 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

Advent Chant: O Christe Domine Jesu – Taize (757)

Prayer after Communion

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Final Song

Promised Lord and Christ is he (103)

Acknowledgements

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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025

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