

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



4th Sunday of Advent (A)

21 December 2025

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession (*The Great 'O' Antiphons*)

O come, O come, Emmanuel (112)

Greeting & Introduction

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Penitential Act

Music: Advent Wreath Service (65)

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
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 7: 10-14)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

- 1 The Lord's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
- 2 Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless,
whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

Second Reading

(Romans 1: 1-7)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Matthew 1: 18-24)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' – which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Blessing & Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Holy God,
bless + this tree.
May its evergreen branches
be a sign of your everlasting love.
May its colourful lights and ornaments call us
to decorate our homes and our world with your love.
As we prepare to celebrate this joyful season,
keep us safe in our gatherings,
kind in our conversations,
and gracious in our giving and receiving.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

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

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Advent Carol: The angel Gabriel (113)

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power the womb of Mary.
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... Tête Mūsū... Vater unser... Ojcze 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

St O: Rorate Coeli (based on Isaiah 45: 8)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain righteousness:
may the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.
Show us, Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Come, Lord, and do not delay.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God, that,
as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration
of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Oh Mary when our God chose you (329) verses 1-3, 6

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