

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Feast of the Holy Family (A)

Closing of the Jubilee Year

28 December 2025

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

Once in royal David's city (**128**) verses 1-4

Greeting & Introduction

Litany of Praise

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Word made flesh, you have made us children of the Father.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Word of God, you became human to share our life.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Light of the world, you scatter the darkness that troubles us.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Gift of the Father, you are with us and never leave us.

R. Glory to God in the highest!

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.

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

(Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14)

A reading from the book of Sirach

The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the judgement of the mother over her sons. Whoever honours his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother.

O son, help your father in his old age and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show indulgence; in all your strength do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 128

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

- 1 Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.
- 2 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

Second Reading

(Colossians 3: 12-17)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

When the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 'Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.' And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Letter

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

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Carol: See, amid the winter's snow (151) v 1-2, 5-6

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly

in your grace and your peace.

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... Téve Mūsų... 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

Carol: In the bleak midwinter (144)

Prayer after Communion

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

God rest you merry gentlemen (129) verses 1-2, 7

Acknowledgements

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