



Newsletter

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
1 February 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

Racial Justice Day

Today is the annual day of prayer for Racial Justice. In an increasingly tense climate, we are encouraged to make a difference by creating a culture of welcome and hospitality in our churches, and to be willing to learn from other cultures and traditions.

Here in Warrington, our congregations have changed in recent years because of immigration, especially at St Benedict's. While our welcome has been warm and our ministries are open to all, I think there are other changes we could make. For example, perhaps the readings at Mass could be in different languages sometimes; we could hear and even learn hymns sung in other cultures; our pictures and statues could include some that are special to those from other countries; and so on.

A parish in the Archdiocese of Southwark has put together a toolkit to enable Catholic parishes to promote racial and cultural inclusion. I would very much like to convene a group of parishioners to explore the toolkit to see what we can do as a parish to be more welcoming and inclusive. If you would be interested in being part of this group, please let me know after Mass or by email. Many thanks.

National Marriage Week

To mark National Marriage Week, Archbishop John will celebrate the annual Marriage and Family Life Mass in the Cathedral next Sunday, 8 February, at 11.00 am. The Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing for those celebrating significant anniversaries. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room.

For those couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please register online for a certificate which can be collected on the day:

<https://forms.office.com/e/uE6amHrQ6w?origin=lprLink>

Communion under both kinds

During the pandemic, we had to suspend communion under both kinds. Since then, we have been able to restore the chalice at weekday Masses but not on Sundays due to a lack of ministers. We have now successfully recruited and trained more Eucharistic Ministers and will be able to restore communion under both kinds a Sunday Masses during Lent.

Eucharistic Ministers

I would like to invite all Eucharistic Ministers, including those who have just completed their training, to a short meeting on Saturday 14 February, 10.00 – 11.00 am, at St Benedict's. At the meeting, we will prepare to reintroduce the chalice at Sunday Masses and organise rotas.

Confirmation 2026

If you are in Year 8 (or older) and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in July, 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 as soon as possible. We've not had a great response so far, so please spread the word if you can. Many thanks.

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. Come along for tea and toast, some company and chat.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 1 February 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	10.30 am Mass Patricia Ann Jackson	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Brian Fitzgerald 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 2 February Feast of the Presentation of the Lord		
Tuesday 3 February St Blaise		2.30 pm Funeral Mass Philip Speakman
Wednesday 4 February	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Thomas Bradley	
Thursday 5 February St Agatha		No Mass today (Funeral at St Joseph's, Penketh) 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 6 February	11.00 am Mass Private Intention (LISC)	
Saturday 7 February		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Carole Lawless
Sunday 8 February 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking</i>	10.30 am Mass Michael Naughton	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

25.01.26	£661.01	(£261.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£181.00	(£126.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1033.26	
Donation	£400.00	(Mem. Malcolm Hackwell)
Fundraising	£205.00	(St Benedict's 200 Club)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

January Winners: Mary McMillan, Peter Howl, Mary McDonagh and Mary Eason. Many thanks everyone.

FIRST COMMUNION 2026

Parishioners in Year 4, who do NOT attend St Benedict's or St Oswald's Catholic Primary Schools, and who would like to celebrate First Communion this year, please contact Fr Dave as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Thank you.

ARCHBISHOP'S VISITATION

Archbishop John will be visiting the parishes in our Deanery over the next six months. Initially, he will preside at one Mass in each church in Warrington and Widnes before Easter. The Archbishop will visit St Benedict's on Sunday 22 February for the 10.30 am Mass. He will then visit St Oswald's on Saturday 21 March for the 4.30 pm Mass. There will be the opportunity to meet him informally over refreshments on both occasions.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13
	1 Corinthians 1: 26-31
	Matthew 5: 1-12
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 4

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, Ray Chriscoli, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Ged Hughes, Gail Hyamson, Jim Hyland, Vin Jackson, Susan Keating, Judith McDowall, 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:
Philip Speakman, Victoria O'Brien, Irene McConnell, Mary Taylor (*Funeral at St O on 20 February at 2.15 pm*).