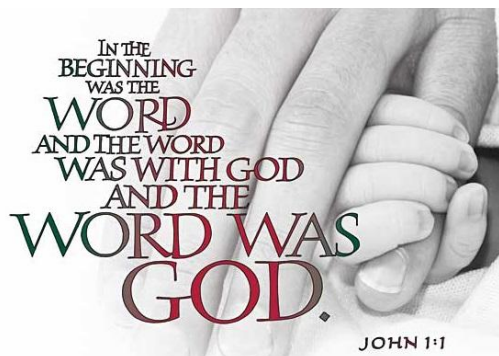


East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

2nd Sunday after the Nativity
4 January 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

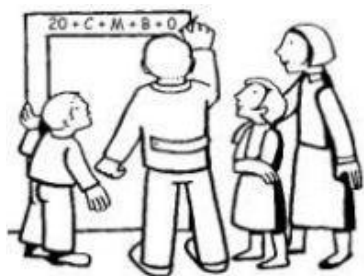
The Epiphany of the Lord

The great feast of Christmas continues this week with the Solemnity of the Epiphany on Tuesday and concludes next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Masses for the Epiphany:

Monday	7.00 pm	Vigil Mass at St Oswald's
Tuesday	9.15 am	School Mass at St Oswald's
	11.00 am	Mass at St Benedict's
	2.00 pm	Mass in St Benedict's School

Blessing of Homes

The Blessing of Homes is a time-honoured custom on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. It reminds us that Christ is with us in the love and care we show one another in our ordinary everyday lives together.



Why not have a little celebration at home on Tuesday? One custom is to trace the Cross together with the initials "CMB" and the numerals of the year on the doorway of your home (using chalk, holy water, or simply with your finger) and then share your usual family meal together. "CMB" stands for "Christus mansionem benedicat" – "May Christ bless this house!" It also represents the names given to the wise men – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. So, the blessing for 2026 would look like this: **20 + C + M + B + 26**

And finally...

This week, I will be taking a much-needed break so the only Masses will be for the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Parish Office and St Benedict's Church will only be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. In case of emergency, please contact one of the other priests in the Deanery. You can find their details under the 'Contact' heading on the Parish website.

A very Happy New Year to you all.
God bless you and yours,
Fr Dave

A Prayer for the New Year

Holy God,
as we enter this New Year,
we thank you for your presence with us
in all the years of our lives.
We have known joy, and also sorrow,
success and failure,
and through it all, you have been with us
– the companion of all our journeys.
Much of life is fleeting and so
we thank you for things that endure:
the love of faithful friends,
wisdom gained from experience,
the reliability of nature, and your steadfast love.
We thank you for this New Year.
Take us by the hand and lead us on.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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. *This week:* Tuesday & Thursday, 10.00 am – 1.00 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. *This week:* Tuesday & Thursday, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm only.

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) **Communion at Home:** If you are no longer able to come to Mass and would like to receive communion at home, please phone the Parish Office (630127).

7) **Parish Social Group** will resume on Wednesday 14 January, 11.30 am – 1.00 pm.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 4 January 2nd Sunday after the Nativity	10.30 am Mass Peter Earl	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass John O'Neill 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 5 January Weekday of Christmas Time		7.00 pm Vigil Mass Bell & Hope Families
Tuesday 6 January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	11.00 am Mass Stephen Dolley 2.00 pm Mass in School The Parishioners	9.15 am School Mass (<i>in church</i>) Carys Sherwin
Wednesday 7 January Weekday after Epiphany	<i>No Mass today</i>	
Thursday 8 January Weekday after Epiphany		<i>No Mass today</i> 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 9 January Weekday after Epiphany	<i>No Mass today</i>	
Saturday 10 January Weekday after Epiphany		4.30 pm Vigil Mass David Searle
Sunday 11 January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (A)	10.30 am Baptism Mass Arthur & Vera Brindle	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

21.12.25	£767.13	(£289.80 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£267.80	(£91.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1226.18	
25.12.25	£1648.82	(£467.00 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£268.00	(£160.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1916.82	
28.12.25	£656.07	(£258.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£56.64	(£21.64 Gift Aid)
Total	£903.96	
Donation	£200.00	(Caritas)
Fundraising	£215.00	(St Benedict 200 Club)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

December Winners: £50 Maria Rodden, £25 Viv & Ged Hughes, £15 Porcia Phibbs, £10 Rollover. Many thanks everyone.

CONFIRMATION 2026

If you are in Year 8 (or older) and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 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 2026. Many thanks.

POPE LEO ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

"God presents himself to us 'unarmed and disarming,' as naked and defenceless as a newborn in a cradle. He does this to teach us that the world is not saved by sharpening swords, nor by judging, oppressing or eliminating our brothers and sisters. Rather, it is saved

by tirelessly striving to understand, forgive, liberate and welcome everyone, without calculation and without fear."

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(*Divine Office – Psalter Week 2*)

Today	2nd Sunday after the Nativity
<i>Readings</i>	Sirach 24: 1-2, 8-12 Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18; John 1: 1-18
Weekdays	Christmas Time (after Epiphany)

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 Mouldsdales, Christine Murphy, Ann Pearson, Vincent Pinnock, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Mary Taylor, 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:

Mark Postlethwaite, Rita Hutson, Michael Meade.