

East Warrington Family of Parishes  
**PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL**

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



## Newsletter

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**  
**Peace Sunday – 18 January 2026**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### Peace Sunday

Today, the Bishops of England and Wales invite us to observe a Day of Prayer for Peace in the World.

In his Message for the World Day of Peace on 1 January, Pope Leo chose the theme: *"Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace."* The word 'unarmed' means rejecting physical weapons, military force, and the mindset of conflict. The word 'disarming' is a call to disarm hearts and minds from prejudice, hatred, selfishness, and the willingness to use violence. This is a daunting goal in the light of the widespread belief that we must be armed, even with nuclear weapons, to protect ourselves.

True peace isn't achieved through deterrence or power, but through internal transformation, sacrifice, and open hearts. It requires active listening, dialogue, humility, and care for others, even enemies. This approach seeks to resolve conflicts through diplomacy, understanding, and building bridges, rather than escalating them.

In short, Christ shows us a different way to peace. As Christians, we are called to try and be peacemakers in our daily interactions with others. It's not always easy and it can cost us, but it is the way to true peace.

Pax Christi is the International Catholic Movement for Peace. Check out their website: [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

### Ecumenical Service

Today marks the beginning of the annual Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. St Oswald's will host an

Ecumenical Service for all the local churches this Tuesday at 7.00 pm. The service will last about thirty minutes and will be followed by refreshments (including cake!). Do come along if you can and invite friends from other local churches to join you.

### Archbishop's Visitation of the Deanery

Bishops try to visit all the parishes in their diocese every four or five years. 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.

### Newsletter Extra

If you've not already done so, please pick up a copy of this month's Newsletter Extra. It includes information about an Archdiocesan Online Alpha Course, Workshops on Accompaniment, Marriage & Family Life Mass on 8 February, Marriage Preparation Catechists, and a Pilgrimage to the North-East in May.

With my prayers,  
Fr Dave

### General Information

- 1) **Parish Priest:** Canon Dave Heywood. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: [frdave@rcaol.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.uk)
- 3) **Parish Website:** [www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk](http://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 some tea and toast, company and chat.
- 7) **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).

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
<b>Sunday 18 January</b> 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Peace Sunday</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins</i>	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Abraham Yau	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Mannion Family <b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners
<b>Monday 19 January</b>		
<b>Tuesday 20 January</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Hopton Family <b>7.00 pm Ecumenical Service</b>
<b>Wednesday 21 January</b> St Agnes	<b>10.15 am Exposition</b> <b>11.00 am Mass</b> Special Intention (Fola)	
<b>Thursday 22 January</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Brenda Meyer <b>7.00 pm Novena &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Friday 23 January</b>	<b>10.00 am Funeral Mass</b> Rita Hutson	
<b>Saturday 24 January</b>		<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Clarence Knowles
<b>Sunday 25 January</b> 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> John & Doris Ryan and children	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

11.01.26	£658.54	(£305.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£326.00	(£236.00 Gift Aid)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1175.79</b>	

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

### 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.

### 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.

### WARRINGTON HOSPITAL

Just a reminder: (1) If you have a loved one in hospital who needs a priest **urgently**, please ask one of the nurses to call switchboard for the 'On Call Catholic Priest'. This is the quickest way of getting a priest to the hospital. (2) If you have a loved one in hospital who would like to see a priest but it's **not urgent**, please contact Fr Dave on 630127. Many thanks.

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster.

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3 John 1: 29-34
<b>Weekdays</b>	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 2

### 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, Judith McDowall, 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:

Rita Hutson and Victoria O'Brien (*Funeral at 10.00 am on Monday 9 February at St Oswald's*).