



Newsletter

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
25 January 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

Sunday of the Word of God

In 2019, Pope Francis set aside the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as 'Sunday of the Word of God'. He did this to remind us of the importance of reading and listening to the Scriptures. If you have a Bible at home, or a Missal which contains the Scripture Readings at Mass, why not pray this simple blessing today:

**God our Father, your Son proclaimed
the good news of salvation.**

**Bless me as I read from these sacred texts.
As I read, listen and reflect on your words of life,
strengthen my faith so that what I read in hope,
I may live in love and charity.**

Archbishop John writes: "As we celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God, we give thanks for the priceless gift of Sacred Scripture—the living Word through which God continues to speak to His people. The Bible is not merely a book of the past; it is the voice of God for today, alive and active, capable of shaping our hearts, guiding our choices, and renewing our hope. In the Scriptures, God draws near to us. He comforts the weary, challenges the complacent, corrects our paths, and reveals His endless mercy. When we listen attentively to the Word, we encounter Christ Himself, for He is the Word made flesh. To know the Scriptures is to know Christ more deeply."

There are lots of excellent resources about the Scriptures on this website: www.godwhospeaks.uk

Readers

On this 'Sunday of the Word of God', I invite our Readers to renew their commitment to ministry during Mass this weekend.

Christian Unity

Today is the last day of this year's Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. May I thank all those who were able to attend last Tuesday's Ecumenical Service at St Oswald's. It was a beautiful celebration – short, prayerful and uplifting – followed by the opportunity to meet Christians from the other local churches while sharing some delicious refreshments.

Holy Land Coordination

This week, representatives of Bishops' Conferences around the world have been visiting the Christian communities and peoples of the Holy Land. They've been doing this every year since 2000 as a way of supporting our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land, many of whom endure much suffering, especially in Gaza and the West Bank. You can read the reports of their visit here: <https://theholyland.org.uk>

Deanery Mass

This month's Deanery Mass takes place at 12.00 noon on Friday (30 January) at St John Fisher Church in Widnes WA8 3JA. Do come along if you can. Perhaps car share!

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 by 31 January 2026. We've not had a great response so far – only about 25 out of an expected 90 have applied to date. 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.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 25 January 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	10.30 am Mass John & Doris Ryan and children	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Clarence Knowles 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 26 January Saints Timothy & Titus		
Tuesday 27 January <i>Holocaust Memorial Day</i>		11.00 am Mass Keiran Hinchliffe
Wednesday 28 January St Thomas Aquinas	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Pauline Heywood	
Thursday 29 January		11.00 am Mass Eileen Mather 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 30 January	12.00 noon Deanery Mass <i>at St John Fisher, Widnes</i>	
Saturday 31 January St John Bosco		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Brian Fitzgerald
Sunday 1 February 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	10.30 am Mass Patricia Ann Jackson	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

18.01.26	£653.73	(£221.90 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£256.00	(£151.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1100.98	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

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

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.

PARISH SOCIAL GROUP

Wednesdays: 11.30 am – 1.00 pm in the Sacristy Meeting Room at St Benedict's. Why not come along for tea and toast, some company and chat?

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 9: 1-4
	1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17
	Matthew 4: 12-23
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 3

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:

Victoria O'Brien (*Funeral at 10.00 am on 9 February at St Oswald's*), Mary Taylor, Fr Michael De Felice.