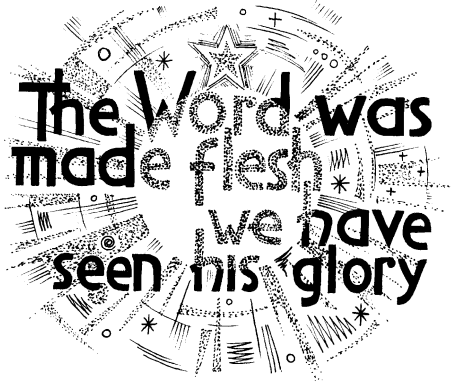


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



2nd Sunday after the Nativity
4 January 2026

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

O come all ye faithful (159) verses 1, 3-4

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

Almighty ever-living God,
splendour of faithful souls,
graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself to all peoples
by the radiance of your light.
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 24: 1-2, 8-12)*

A reading from the book of Sirach

Wisdom will praise herself and will boast in the midst
of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she

will open her mouth, and in the presence of his forces
she will boast: 'Then the Creator of all things
commanded me, and the one who created me gave my
tent a resting place. And he said, "Make your dwelling
in Jacob and in Israel receive your inheritance." From
eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for
eternity I shall not cease to exist. In the holy tabernacle
I ministered before him, and so I was established in
Sion. In the beloved city likewise he gave me a resting
place, and in Jerusalem was my dominion. So I took
root in an honoured people, in the portion of the Lord,
his inheritance.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Christmas Psalm 96

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord; bless his name.
- 2 Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Second Reading *(Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual
blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in
him before the foundation of the world, that we should
be holy and blameless before him. In love he
predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through
Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the
praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed
us in the Beloved.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in
the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do
not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in
my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and
of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes
of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is
the hope to which he has called you, what are the
riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel *(John 1: 1-5, 9-14)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning
with God. All things were made through him, and
without him was not any thing made that was made. In
him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not
overcome it.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Rite of Welcome

On this first Sunday of the month, some of the children who are going to be baptised in the coming weeks are welcomed into the Christian community.

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(All bow at the following words)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

The light of Christ (747)

Prayer over the Offerings

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, for by it you show us the way of truth and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom. 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... Tève Mūsų... Vater unser... Ojczy 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

Music: What Child is this? – William Chatterton Dix

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God, we humbly ask you,
that, through the working of this mystery,
our offences may be cleansed
and our just desires fulfilled.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Joy to the world (156) verses 1-2, 4

Acknowledgements

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