

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

2nd Sunday of Lent (A)
1 March 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

Welcome

A very warm welcome to the children in Year 4 from St Benedict's and St Oswald's Catholic Primary Schools, and their parents, who will be joining us for Mass this weekend as they begin their preparation for First Communion.

Archbishop's Visit

Archbishop John enjoyed his visit to St Benedict's last Sunday. He was impressed by the large congregation and the various nationalities. He also highlighted the outreach we do to asylum seekers, refugees and others who are struggling in the community.

Many thanks to our Hong Kong parishioners for celebrating the Lunar New Year with us – and for the delicious food!

The Archbishop will visit St Oswald's on Saturday 21 March. He will preside at the 4.30 pm Mass and meet parishioners over refreshments after Mass in St Oswald's Parish Centre.

World Day of Prayer

This year's Ecumenical Service for the annual World Day of Prayer will take place at Padgate Methodist Church this Friday, 6 March, at 7.30 pm. The service has been prepared by people living in Nigeria. It looks at the burdens we carry and our Lord's invitation to come to him and rest. All are welcome.

"Confessathon!"

Archbishop John has invited us to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. Although

each church offers weekly Confessions and there will probably be Services of Reconciliation in the coming weeks, the priests have set aside **Saturday 7 March** to be available for Confessions at **St Alban's Church** from **10.00 am – 4.00 pm**. During this time, there will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We hope this opportunity will be helpful, especially if it's sometime since you last celebrated the sacrament.

In case you prefer to go to a particular priest:

10.00 – 11.00 am	Canon Christopher
11.00 am – 12.00 noon	Fr Raymond Anyanwu
12.00 noon – 1.30 pm	Fr Mark Drew
1.30 – 3.00 pm	Canon Dave Heywood
3.00 – 4.00 pm	Fr Matthew Goddard, FSSP

Mustard Seed Children's Club

The next meeting for children who have celebrated their First Communion will be after the 10.30 am Mass next Sunday, 8 March, at St Benedict's.

Chrism Mass

This year's Chrism Mass will take place in the Cathedral on Wednesday 1 April at 7.30 pm. At the Mass, the oils used in the sacraments will be blessed by the Archbishop and the priests of the diocese will renew their commitment. It's the biggest Archdiocesan celebration of the year. As usual, I'm organising a coach for the parishes in East Warrington. If you would like a place on the coach, please sign the sheet at the back of church. The coach will depart from St Oswald's at 6.15 pm. The Mass usually finishes by 9.15 pm so we should be back by 10.00 pm.

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 1 March 2nd Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am First Communion Presentation Mass Jane Grady	(Sat) 4.30 pm First Communion Presentation Mass Carys Sherwin 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 2 March		
Tuesday 3 March		11.00 am Mass Patrick Hird 2.00 pm Funeral Mass Dave Thurston
Wednesday 4 March	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Annette Oldrick	
Thursday 5 March	<i>12.00 noon Funeral at Walton Lea</i> <i>for Roy Hough</i>	11.00 am Mass Alan Oxley 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 6 March <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	11.00 am Mass Private Intention (LISC) 11.30 am Stations of the Cross	<i>7.30 pm World Day of Prayer</i> <i>Service at Padgate Methodist Church</i>
Saturday 7 March		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Mary Taylor
Sunday 8 March 3rd Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am Mass Cathy Moorcroft	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Details of last week's Offertory Collection will be available next weekend.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today – CAFOD'S Lent Fast Day

ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

February Winners: £50 Mary Monks, £25 Vivian Chan, £15 Michael Hines, £10 Miriam Gibbons. Many thanks everyone.

SAFEGUARDING

If you are concerned about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult and feel they are in immediate danger, please call the Police. If you wish to report any non-urgent concerns, please contact your Local Social Services or the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team on 0151 522 1043 or email safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk

Our Parish Safeguarding Reps are Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster. They can be contacted through the Parish Office (630127).

EASTER HAMPER RAFFLES

There will be an Easter Hamper Raffle at St Oswald's to help raise funds for Padgate Walking Day and at St Benedict's to raise funds for Warrington Walking Day. Each day costs the Parish just over £1000 – so £2000 in total. Donations for each hamper would be gratefully received. Many thanks.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today

Readings

Weekdays

2nd Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 12: 1-4; 2 Timothy 1: 8-10

Matthew 17: 1-9

Lent – 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

Kath Bradshaw, Ray Chriscoli, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hincliffe, 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, Matilde Valentine, Dolores Woodall.

St Oswald's

Keith Bate, Brenda Brathing, Catherine Carne, Peter Cox, Dave Ferris, Marguerite Jones, Jean Murphy, 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:

Roy Hough, Dave Thurston, Teresa Barnsley, Sheila Cryer, Gerald Griffin and Josephine Patricia Cox.