

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

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



## Newsletter

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**  
**8 February 2026**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### **Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking**

Today, 8 February, is the annual Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking. Human trafficking now ranks as the second most profitable worldwide criminal enterprise after the illegal arms trade. The practical response of the Church is to raise awareness of this horrendous crime and to provide help and support for the most vulnerable victims.

The day of prayer falls on the feast of **St Josephine Bakhita** (pictured above). St Josephine was from Sudan. At the age of nine, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She suffered terribly at the hands of her kidnappers so much so that she forgot her birth name. Her kidnappers gave her the name 'Bakhita' which means 'Fortunate'. She was eventually brought to Italy where she was entrusted to the care of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. It was there that she came to know and experience God's love. Josephine joined the Sisters and for the next fifty years and led a life of simplicity, prayer and service. She was known for showing kindness to everyone, especially the children in the street. In her final years, she suffered from sickness and the haunting memories of the beatings and floggings she received while in slavery. She died in 1947 and was canonised in October 2000.

### **National Marriage Week**

National Marriage Week began yesterday (Saturday). It is celebrated in the week leading up to Valentine's Day on 14 February. The Archbishop will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral today (Sunday) with married couples

from all over the Archdiocese, and he will pray this prayer:

**God our Father,  
we ask you to bless all married couples.  
We thank you for their long and happy marriages  
and for all the good that they have done.  
As you blessed the love of their youth  
and helped them in their joys and struggles,  
continue to bless their life together  
with gifts of peace and joy.  
Watch over them in the coming years  
and bring them to the feast of eternal life.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

The Mass will be livestreamed from the Cathedral on YouTube at 11.00 am. You can also watch it at a time that suits you. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@LiverpoolMetCathedral/streams>

Underneath the video, there's a link so that you can download the order of service.

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Finally, a reminder to all Eucharistic Ministers, including those who have just completed their training, that there will be a short meeting next Saturday, 14 February, 10.00 – 11.00 am, at St Benedict's, to prepare to reintroduce the chalice at Sunday Masses.

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 tea and toast, some company and chat.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

|  | St Benedict's   | St Oswald's  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Sunday 8 February</b><br>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)<br><i>Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking</i> | 10.30 am Mass<br>Michael Naughton                     | (Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass<br>Carole Lawless<br>8.30 am Mass<br>The Parishioners |
| <b>Monday 9 February</b>   |   | 10.00 am Funeral Mass<br>Victoria O'Brien                                      |
| <b>Tuesday 10 February</b><br>St Scholastica   |   | 11.00 am Mass<br>Samuel Taylor   |
| <b>Wednesday 11 February</b><br>Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes<br><i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i>        | 10.15 am Exposition<br>11.00 am Mass<br>Eileen Lawton |  |
| <b>Thursday 12 February</b>  |   | 11.00 am Mass<br>Robert Crook<br><i>No Novena &amp; Benediction</i>            |
| <b>Friday 13 February</b>  | 11.00 am Mass<br>Mike Foy                             |  |
| <b>Saturday 14 February</b><br>Feast of Saints Cyril & Methodius   |   | 4.30 pm Vigil Mass<br>Alice Taylor   |
| <b>Sunday 15 February</b><br>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)<br><i>Day of Prayer for the Unemployed</i>        | 10.30 am Mass<br>Arthur Brindle                       | 8.30 am Mass<br>The Parishioners   |

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

|                 |                 |                    |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 01.02.26        | £759.00         | (£319.41 Gift Aid) |
| Standing Orders | £191.25         | (£162.50 Gift Aid) |
| Digital Giving  | £260.00         | (£145.00 Gift Aid) |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>£1210.25</b> |                    |

Thank you so much for your generosity.

### FIRST COMMUNION 2026

A final reminder to 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

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

Please pick up a copy of this month's 'Newsletter Extra' from the back of church which contains events going on in and around the Archdiocese. You can also download a copy from the Parish website.

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster.

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Today</b>    | <b>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b>                      |
| Readings        | Isaiah 58: 6-10<br>1 Corinthians 2: 1-5<br>Matthew 5: 13-16 |
| <b>Weekdays</b> | Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 5                              |

### 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, 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:**

Victoria O'Brien, Irene McConnell, Mary Taylor (Funeral at St Oswald's on 20 February at 2.15 pm).