

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
15 February 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

Ash Wednesday

The annual Season of Lent begins this Wednesday, 18 February. Ashes will be blessed and distributed during Mass at 11.00 am (St Benedict's) and 7.00 pm (St Oswald's).

The Season of Lent

Easter Day is the most important day of the year for Christians. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. It was this event that sparked belief in Jesus more than any other and led to the beginning of the Church.

Easter is the time when we welcome new members into the Church. The season of Lent began as a time of final preparation for those who were to be baptised at Easter. For those who were already baptised, Lent became a time for them to prepare to renew their baptism on Easter Day.

Lent is still all these things. On Easter Day, we will stand together and renew our baptism. To prepare for that moment, we use the forty days of Lent to look at our lives and ask: do I need to give something up or do something extra to get back into shape as a Christian?

Lenten Publications

Unfortunately, Redemptorist Publications are no longer producing 'Lent Extra'. However, there are copies of the smaller 'Walk With Me' at the front of the church. Please take a copy if you wish – they're free! There's also a Lenten Calendar for Children.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross on:

Thursdays 7.00 pm at St Oswald's
Fridays 11.30 am at St Benedict's

Archbishop's Visitation

Archbishop John will be visiting the parishes in Warrington over the next few weeks. Next weekend, he will visit St Peter & St Michael's in Woolston on Saturday for the 6.30 pm Mass. Then, on Sunday morning, he will visit St Joseph's in Penketh for the 8.30 am Mass and St Benedict's for the 10.30 am Mass. After Mass at St Benedict's, the Archbishop will join us for this year's Lunar New Year celebrations with our Hong Kong parishioners.

Music Day

Jo Boyce from CJM Music will be visiting the Deanery to support musicians and singers with some input, reflection and accompaniment on Saturday 7 March. The day will take place at St Basil's, Hough Green Road, Widnes WA8 4PE, beginning at 9.45 am and concluding with Mass at 4.30 pm. For more information and booking form, please speak to Fr Dave after Mass or phone the Parish Office (630127). Check out the CJM website: <https://www.cjmmusic.com>

Do you have a spare room?

'Room for Refugees' is a registered charity that connects households in the UK that have a spare room and would be willing to accommodate a refugee or asylum seeker for a short time. Since 2002, thousands of people have been welcomed into homes in the UK for anything from a week to months. As a host, you decide how long you can offer a spare room, and the charity screens all referrals to ensure a safe match as well as providing support for you and your guest throughout the placement. For more information, see the leaflets at the back of church or: <https://www.roomforrefugees.com>

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 15 February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Day of Prayer for the Unemployed</i>	10.30 am Mass Arthur Brindle	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Alice Taylor 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 16 February		
Tuesday 17 February <i>Shrove Tuesday</i>		11.00 am Mass Martin Jenkins
Ash Wednesday, 18 February <i>Day of Fasting & Abstinence</i>	11.00 am Mass Pat Finnegan 12.40 pm Funeral at Walton Lea Irene McConnell	7.00 pm Mass Violet Howard
Thursday 19 February		11.00 am Mass Breda Griffin 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 20 February	11.00 am Mass Tom Daley 11.30 am Stations of the Cross	2.15 pm Funeral Mass Mary Taylor
Saturday 21 February		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Alf Brown
Sunday 22 February 1st Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am Mass Kathleen McQuillan	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

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

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.

MISSIO RED BOX DONATIONS

Parishioners in the part of the parish that was formerly St Mary's have raised the magnificent sum of £1020 for the missions through the Red Boxes they keep in their homes. Thank you so much for this and thank you to Greg Caswell who coordinates the Red Box collections in this part of the parish.

PARISH SOCIAL GROUP

The Parish Social Group meets on 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.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Copies of this month's Newsletter Extra are available at the back of church, or you can download it from the Parish website.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

Today **6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**
Readings Sirach 15: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10
 Matthew 5: 17-37

Weekdays Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 6
 Lent begins on Wednesday

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 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:

Irene McConnell, Mary Taylor, Deacon Leo McNicholas, Roy Hough and Dave Thurston.