

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

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



## *Newsletter*

**1st Sunday of Lent (A)**  
**22 February 2026**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### **Archbishop's Visitation**

A very warm welcome to Archbishop John who will be presiding at the 10.30 am Mass at St Benedict's this weekend as part of his visitation to the Deanery. After Mass, there will be the opportunity to meet the Archbishop during refreshments which will be provided by our Hong Kong parishioners as part of their Lunar New Year celebrations. The Archbishop will visit St Oswald's for the 4.30 pm Mass on Saturday 21 March.

### **CAFOD's Lent Fast Day**

This coming Friday, 27 February, is CAFOD's Lent Fast Day – one of two days in the year when we go without a meal, or something we enjoy, and give what we save in this way to the world's poorest people.

Please take an envelope home with you today and bring it back next weekend. Alternatively, you can donate online at [www.cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://www.cafod.org.uk/envelope) or by phone on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10 or use the QR code on the noticeboard.

### **Deanery Mass**

Our monthly Deanery Mass takes place this Friday, 27 February, at 12.00 noon at St Oswald's in Padgate. Do come along if you can.

### **"Confessathon!"**

In his Pastoral Letter last weekend, Archbishop John 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:

<b>10.00 – 11.00 am</b>	<b>Canon Christopher</b>
<b>11.00 am – 12.00 noon</b>	<b>Fr Raymond Anyanwu</b>
<b>12.00 noon – 1.00 pm</b>	<b>Fr Mark Drew</b>
<b>1.00 – 2.00 pm</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>2.00 – 3.00 pm</b>	<b>Canon Dave Heywood</b>
<b>3.00 – 4.00 pm</b>	<b>Fr John Schofield</b>

### **An Idea for Lent**

In his Message for Lent, Pope Leo writes: "I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

### **Mustard Seed Children's Club**

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

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 St Benedict's Sacristy Meeting Room.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
<b>Sunday 22 February</b> 1st Sunday of Lent (A)	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Kathleen McQuillan	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Alf Brown <b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners
<b>Monday 23 February</b>		
<b>Tuesday 24 February</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> John McCarthy
<b>Wednesday 25 February</b>	<b>10.15 am Exposition</b> <b>11.00 am Mass</b> Eileen Warburton	
<b>Thursday 26 February</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Vin Vernon & Family <b>7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Friday 27 February</b> <i>CAFOD's Lent Fast Day</i>	<i>Deanery Mass at St Oswald's</i>	<b>12.00 noon Deanery Mass</b> Private Intention (JH)
<b>Saturday 28 February</b>		<b>4.30 pm First Communion</b> <b>Presentation Mass</b> Carys Sherwin
<b>Sunday 1 March</b> 2nd Sunday of Lent (A)	<b>10.30 am First Communion</b> <b>Presentation Mass</b> Jane Grady	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

08.02.26	£651.83	(£281.78 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£236.00	(£151.00 Gift Aid)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1079.08</b>	
15.02.26	£764.65	(£275.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£171.00	(£121.00 Gift Aid)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1126.90</b>	

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

### 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.

### 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. 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>

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Lent (A)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7 Romans 5: 12, 17-19 Matthew 4: 1-11
<b>Weekdays</b>	Lent – Week 1

### 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 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:**

Deacon Leo McNicholas, Roy Hough, Dave Thurston and Teresa Barnsley.