

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

3rd Sunday of Lent (A)

8 March 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

War in Iran

The Bishop of Clifton, Bishop Bosco MacDonald, writes: "After the long agony of Ukraine and the appalling suffering in Gaza, the world now faces another conflict whose consequences are unpredictable, and whose cost is already being paid first by ordinary people..."

"Catholic teaching on war does not pretend the world is simple, but it does insist on the protection of the innocent, and on moral boundaries that cannot be crossed, even in times of fear and anger. Whatever arguments are made between governments, civilians must never be treated as instruments, or made to carry the punishment of decisions they did not take. We pray for leaders to have the courage to step back from escalation, for negotiators to find a path that does not humiliate, and for the clamour of weapons to give way to the patient work of dialogue, so that peace, once lost, may be found again."

**God of peace, Father of all,
in this hour of fear and violence
draw near to every family living under threat.**

**Protect the innocent, shelter the displaced,
comfort the grieving, heal the wounded,
and strengthen all who bring relief and care.**

**Turn the hearts of leaders from pride and anger.
Give them wisdom, restraint, and courage,
that the weapons of war may fall silent
and honest negotiation may begin.**

**Save the peoples of the Middle East from a widening
war, guard Christians and all religious minorities,
and keep hatred from hardening into lasting division.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Mustard Seed Children's Club

The next meeting for children who have celebrated their First Communion takes place today (Sunday) after the 10.30 am Mass 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. If you would like a place on the coach going to the Mass, 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.

Dementia Prayer Week (12-19 March)

We have several parishioners with dementia. Their carers are often their spouses. They need our prayerful support.

Loving Father,

*you hold each of us in your tender care,
even when memories fade and words are lost.*

We pray for those living with dementia.

*May they feel surrounded by your peace
and know that they are always loved by you.*

Bless those who care for them:

grant them patience, strength and gentleness.

*In moments of weariness, give them comfort;
in times of sadness, grant them hope.*

May every act of care

become a reflection of your enduring love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 8 March 3rd Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am Mass Cathy Moorcroft	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Mary Taylor 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 9 March		12.45 pm Funeral Mass Josephine Patricia Cox
Tuesday 10 March		11.00 am Mass Gail Hyamson
Wednesday 11 March	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Ian Whelan 1.15 pm Funeral Mass Teresa Barnsley	
Thursday 12 March		11.00 am Mass Jack Disley 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 13 March	11.00 am Mass Patrick Hird 11.30 am Stations of the Cross	9.30 am School Live Simply Mass <i>with Bishop Tom Neylon</i>
Saturday 14 March	1.30 pm Wedding Mass Avril Phillips & Matthew Dolley	4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners
Sunday 15 March <i>Laetare Sunday</i> 4th Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am Mass Olive Elizabeth Swift	8.30 am Mass Gilbert Cox

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Details of the collections for the last two weeks will be available next weekend.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, there will be a Second Collection for 'Nugent' – the social welfare agency of the Archdiocese. Nugent cares for, educates, and protects vulnerable children, young people and adults through schools, care homes, and community and social work services. You can find out more here: www.wearenenugent.org

EASTER HAMPER RAFFLES

Over the next few weeks, 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 continue to raise the funds needed to redecorate the church. St Benedict's will also be having a Tombola – donations of Easter Eggs would be gratefully received. Many thanks.

REPAIRS AT ST OSWALD'S

It has been a very long and frustrating journey to get the much needed works underway at St Oswald's to stop the water ingress that has caused so much damage. At long last there is light at the end of the tunnel! I have been promised the final specs and quotes this week. If the good weather holds up, we should see the work begin before Easter. The work will take some time, both externally and then internally, but it will be worth it. Thank you so much for your patience.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today **3rd Sunday of Lent (A)**
Readings Exodus 17: 3-7 & John 4: 5-42
Weekdays Lent – Week 3

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 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:

Teresa Barnsley, Sheila Cryer, Gerald Griffin, Josephine Patricia Cox, Deacon Bernard Worden, Deacon Dennis Vint and Fr Peter Crowther.