

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

4th Sunday of Lent (A)

15 March 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

CAFOD's Live Simply Award

On Friday, it was a joy to welcome Bishop Tom Neylon to his home parish to present CAFOD's Live Simply Award to the children and staff of St Oswald's Catholic Primary School. Inspired by Pope Francis, the award recognises that the children, by their actions, are living simply, sustainably with creation, and in solidarity with those living in poverty. After Easter, I will invite some of the children to share what they've been doing with us. I hope they will inspire us to do the same as a parish.

Feast of St Patrick

Tuesday is the feast of St Patrick, Patron of Ireland. A very happy feast day to all our Irish friends. Deacon David will be leading a service at the Irish Club today (Sunday) prior to the annual St Patrick's Day Parade.

Archbishop's Visitation

The Archbishop continues his visitation to our Deanery and will visit St Oswald's next Saturday, 21 March. He will preside at the 4.30 pm Vigil Mass and meet parishioners over refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre. Unfortunately, the Archbishop's diary means he can't preside at the 8.30 am Sunday Mass but he invites those who attend that Mass to join him for the Vigil Mass if possible and/or for refreshments afterwards.

Iftar

Last weekend, Miriam Gibbons and I attended an Iftar meal in Orford. 'Iftar' is the name of the meal eaten by Muslims at sunset to break their fast during Ramadan. It was a lovely evening and an opportunity to catch up with families who have moved to Warrington as asylum seekers or refugees over the last six years. Most

of them fled from brutal regimes or war and experienced a warm welcome here in Warrington. They are so very grateful. I wish our Home Secretary could meet them and see the difference volunteers have made to their lives by simply welcoming them and supporting them.

Mustard Seeds Children's Club

Last Sunday, more than twenty children who've celebrated their First Communion gathered at St Benedict's after the 10.30 am Mass for the 'Mustard Seeds Children Club'. As well as making a promise for Lent, the children learnt about the Stations of the Cross and enjoyed some cakes. Many thanks to Bruce and Clara, Sue and John for providing this opportunity to support our young parishioners in their faith.

Holy Week Penance Service

This year's Holy Week Penance Service (*Service of Reconciliation*) will take place at St Oswald's on Tuesday 31 March at 7.30 pm.

Chrism Mass

This year's Chrism Mass will take place in the Cathedral on Wednesday 1 April at 7.30 pm. If you would like a place on the coach going to the Mass, please sign the sheet at the back of church TODAY. The coach will depart from St Oswald's at 6.15 pm. We hope to arrive back around 10.00 pm.

Mother's Day

Finally, a very happy Mother's Day to all mums, grandmas, step mums and those who have been like a mother to us. May God bless your love.

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 March 4th Sunday of Lent (A) <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	<i>(9.30 am Service at the Irish Club for St Patrick's Day)</i> 10.30 am Mass Olive Elizabeth Swift	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners 8.30 am Mass Gilbert Cox
Monday 16 March		
Tuesday 17 March Feast of St Patrick, Patron of Ireland		11.00 am Mass Marie Hume
Wednesday 18 March	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Christine & Matthew Lawton	
Thursday 19 March Solemnity of St Joseph, Husband of Mary	12.00 noon Funeral Service Sheila Patricia Cryer	11.00 am Mass Magaret & John McGinty 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Friday 20 March <i>Anniversary of Warrington bombing in 1993</i>	11.00 am Mass Tom Dillon 11.30 am Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 21 March		4.30 pm First Communion Preparation Mass The Parishioners
Sunday 22 March 5th Sunday of Lent (A)	10.30 am First Communion Preparation Mass Olive Elizabeth Swift	8.30 am Mass Sheila Mellor

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

22.02.26	£677.06	<i>(Gift Aid details to follow)</i>
Standing Orders	£191.25	
Digital Giving	£231.00	
Total	£1099.31	
01.03.26	£794.89	
Standing Orders	£191.25	
Digital Giving	£243.50	
Total	£1229.64	
2nd Collection	£978.29	<i>(CAFOD Fast Day)</i>

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today there is the annual 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.wearenugent.org

PARISH OFFICE

As you may know, Bernie is on compassionate leave following the sudden death of her twin brother. I am very grateful to Chris Sykes for volunteering to keep the Parish Office open – answering the phone and the door, as well as dealing with the multitude of requests that come in each day. While we're trying to keep the show on the road, as it were, please understand that there will be times when we can't respond to requests and other matters as promptly as usual. Thank you for your understanding. Please keep Bernie and her family in your prayers at this time. *Fr D*

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	4th Sunday of Lent (A)
<i>Readings</i>	1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41
Weekdays	Lent – Week 4

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:

Sheila Patricia Cryer, Gerald Griffin, Allan Joseph Lunt, Deacon Bernard Worden, Deacon Dennis Vint and Fr Peter Crowther.