

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

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



## Newsletter

**Palm Sunday (A)**

**29 March 2026**

My dear sisters and brothers,

### Holy Week

Today marks the beginning of the holiest week of the year for Christians. We remember and celebrate what Jesus did out of love for each one of us – how he suffered, died, and rose to new life.

### Palm Sunday

On this first day of Holy Week, we recall Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem. The people welcomed him with joy – waving palm leaves and singing 'Hosanna!' Today, we too hold palms and sing 'Hosanna' as we go with Jesus into Holy Week.

### Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday evening, we recall the way Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and shared the Last Supper. After Mass, we stay for a short while 'watching' with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

### Good Friday

All over the world at 3.00 pm on Good Friday, Christians stop whatever they are doing (if they can) to celebrate the Passion of the Lord. In a simple but ancient liturgy, we listen to St John's account of the Passion of the Lord, pray for the needs of the world, and venerate the Cross.

### Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday

Finally, on Holy Saturday night – the holiest night of the year for Christians – we keep the 'mother of all vigils' (*St Augustine*). The big Easter candle will be lit. In the light of that candle, we will listen to the stories of what God has done for his people through the ages. Then we will renew our baptismal promises, welcome new members into the Church, and celebrate Christ's risen presence with us in the eucharist. This great celebration continues at Mass on Easter Sunday.

### A Message from Deacon Dan

"Dear friends, Following discussion and support from the Archbishop, I would like to let you know that my ordination to the priesthood, due to take place on 27 June, has been postponed. This means that I will be remaining a little longer in my current role and continuing my ministry as a deacon for the time being. I am grateful for this additional period of placement, which I trust will be a valuable time of growth and service. Thank you for your continued prayers and support." *Deacon Dan*

### Holy Land

One of the problems with President Trump organising a 'ceasefire' in Gaza is that the situation is no longer in the media. Tragically, little has changed. Israel continues to breach the ceasefire by killing civilians as well as preventing vital humanitarian aid reaching Gazans – the majority of whom are now living in tents! At the same time, settlers are attacking and killing Palestinians in the West Bank with impunity. Now Israel has closed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem – the place where it is believed Jesus was buried and rose from the dead.

### Islamophobia

I was shocked to see the reaction to the Iftar in Trafalgar Square last week. Iftar is the breaking of the fast during Ramadan. I attended one in Orford a couple of weeks ago. Interestingly, there was no reaction to the Catholic Corpus Christi Procession or the Hindus celebrating Diwali publicly in London last year, but as soon as Muslims try to extend hospitality to the nation, they are criticised for 'enforcing their religion'. How sad.

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.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
<b>Sunday 29 March</b> Palm Sunday (A)	10.30 am Mass Gerald Griffin	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Eileen Lawton 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
<b>Monday 30 March</b>		
<b>Tuesday 31 March</b>		11.00 am Mass Bernie McMahon 2.00 pm School Easter Celebration 7.30 pm Penance Service
<b>Wednesday 1 April</b>	11.00 am Mass (Mary Taylor) 2.00 pm Easter Mass in School	7.30 pm Chrism Mass (Cathedral)
<b>Holy Thursday, 2 April</b>	7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Robin & Jane Walford (‘Watching’ until 9.30 pm)	
<b>Good Friday, 3 April</b> <i>Day of Fast &amp; Abstinence</i>	11.00 am Stations of the Cross for Children	10.00 am Stations in Cantonese 12.00 noon Stations of the Cross 3.00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
<b>Holy Saturday, 4 April</b>		(NB. No 4.30 pm Mass) 8.00 pm The Easter Vigil The Parishioners
<b>Easter Sunday, 5 April</b>	10.30 am Baptism Mass Mary Howl	8.30 am Mass Mgr William Pinnington

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

15.03.26	£564.94	<i>(Gift Aid details to follow)</i>
Standing Orders	£191.25	<i>follow)</i>
Digital Giving	£273.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1029.19</b>	
22.03.26	£725.60	<i>(Gift Aid details to follow)</i>
Standing Orders	£191.25	<i>follow)</i>
Digital Giving	£221.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1137.85</b>	
2nd Collection	£359.90	<i>(Nugent)</i>

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

### GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

On Good Friday, in Catholic Churches all over the world, there is a collection at the end of the afternoon liturgy to support the Holy Places and the Christians living in the Holy Land.

### GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Offertory envelopes for the new tax year are available at the back of church. **Please note:** those boxes with names on are for those who Gift Aid their offerings, those boxes without names on are for anyone to use.

### CHRISM MASS

Many thanks to all those who've signed up to come to the Chrism Mass on Wednesday. The coach will depart promptly from St Oswald's at 6.15 pm. We hope to be back in Warrington by 10.00 pm. There is no charge, but you may want to bring some refreshments with you!

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>Palm Sunday (A)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11 Matthew 26: 14-27: 66
<b>Weekdays</b>	Holy Week

### 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, Margaret Exell, 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:**  
Harold Boyle, Bernard Hill, Don Abbott.