

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Thursday, 2 April 2026

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

1 Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with men, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again.
Love, only love, is his way.

**Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.**

2 Love is his way, love is his mark,
sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at his table, host to the twelve.
Love, only love, is his mark.

3 Love is his mark, love is his sign,
bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
"This is my body, this is my blood".
Love, only love, is his sign.

4 Love is his sign, love is his news,
'Do this', he said, 'lest you forget
all my deep sorrow, all my dear blood',
love, only love, is his news.

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Greeting & Introduction

Reception of the Holy Oils

*Each time one of the Oils is presented, please join in
singing the response after Fr Dave has sung it first:*

R. Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God!

Collect

O God, who have called us to participate
in this most sacred Supper,
in which your Only Begotten Son,
when about to hand himself over to death,
entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity,
the banquet of his love,
grant, we pray,

that we may draw from so great a mystery,
the fullness of charity and of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

(Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14)

A reading from the book of Exodus

In those days: The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 'This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbour shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male, a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

'Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

'In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

'This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute for ever, you shall keep it as a feast.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116

**Our blessing-cup is a communion
with the Blood of Christ.**

- 1 How shall I make a return to the Lord
for all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the Lord.
- 2 Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.

I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 11: 23-26)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters: I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you; that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel (John 13: 1-15)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it round his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped round him.



He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, do you wash my feet?' Jesus answered him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterwards you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, 'Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also

ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Washing of the Feet

Please join in singing the refrain:

**This is my example, love as I love you.
This is my example, love as I love you.**

- 1 Breaking bread with friends
as his life was at an end,
Jesus knelt to wash their feet.
- 2 In a time to come
you will know what I have done;
let me wash you, let me serve.
- 3 Simon Peter said,
"Wash my hands, my feet, my head!"
Jesus looked on him with love.
- 4 Make my love complete,
go and wash each other's feet;
what I have done so you must do.

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Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Please join in singing the refrain:

**Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.**

Where charity and love are found, God is there.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy – Mass of Christ our Saviour (Dan Schutte)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

Sign of Peace

Please exchange the Sign of Peace with those around you in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

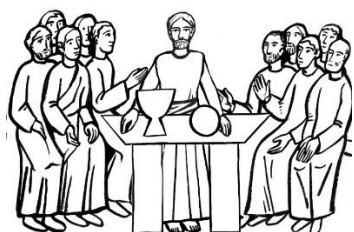
Communion Song

- 1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

**This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.**

- 2 There in the garden of tears
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.
- 3 Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.
- 4 So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

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Hymn after Communion

- 1 **Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest;
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
wash me with water flowing from thy side.**
- 2 **Strength and protection may thy passion be;
O blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me;
so shall I never, never part from thee.**
- 3 **Guard and defend me from the foe malign;
in death's dread moments make me only thine;
call me, and bid me come to thee on high,
where I may praise thee with thy saints for aye.**

Ascribed to Pope John Paul XXII (1249-1334)

Prayer after Communion

Grant, almighty God,
that, just as we are renewed
by the Supper of your Son in this present age,
so we may enjoy his banquet for all eternity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
R. Amen.



Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Hymn

- 1 **Of the glorious body telling,
O my tongue, its myst'ries sing,
and the blood, all price excelling,
which the world's eternal King,
in a noble womb once dwelling,
shed for this world's ransoming.**
- 2 **Giv'n for us, for us descending,
of a virgin to proceed,
man with man in converse blending,
scattered he the gospel seed,
till his sojourn drew to ending,
which he closed in wondrous deed.**
- 3 **At the last great supper lying
circled by his brethren's band,
meekly with the law complying,
first, he finished its command.
Then, immortal food supplying,
gave himself by his own hand.**
- 4 **Word-made-flesh, by word he maketh
very bread his flesh to be;
man in wine Christ's blood partaketh,
and if senses fail to see,
faith alone the true heart waketh
to behold the mystery.**
- 5 **Therefore, we before him bending,
this great sacrament revere;
types and shadows have their ending,
for the newer rite is here;
faith, our outward sense befriending,
makes the inward vision clear.**
- 6 **Glory let us give, and blessing,
to the Father and the Son;
honour, might and praise addressing,
while eternal ages run;
ever too his love confessing,
who from both, with both is one.**

St Thomas Aquinas (trans. J.M. Neale)

**The church will remain open until 9.30 pm
with Night Prayer at 9.20 pm.**

Acknowledgements

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