

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 Easter (A)  
26 April 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

### Good Shepherd Sunday

Today, the 4th Sunday of Easter, is known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' because we listen to the Gospel in which Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. It's also the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood, the Diaconate, and the Religious Life. There will be a **Second Collection** as you leave church for the Priests' Training Fund.

We currently have six men in formation for the Priesthood, including our own Deacon, Dan Howarth. If you think God might be calling you to serve as a Priest, a Deacon or in the Religious Life, and are ready to explore this further, please contact the Vocations' Director, Fr Ron Johnson, on 0151 727 2493 or email [r.johnson@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:r.johnson@rcaol.org.uk)

There's an interesting page on the Bishops' Conference website, including a message from our own Archbishop Emeritus, Malcolm McMahon OP, videos of a Day in the Life of a Parish Priest and a Religious Sister, and a message for the day from Pope Leo. Check it out here: [www.cbcew.org.uk/vocations-sunday](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/vocations-sunday)

### Parish Development Strategy

Many thanks to all those who were able to come to the recent meetings to assist in completing the audit of the Parish which is the first part of a strategy to help us to plan for the future. The meetings raised all sorts of questions and ideas. There will be opportunities in the coming months, not only to explore these questions, but to examine the audit. A key issue for us is finance. Despite running a very tight budget, our income doesn't meet our expenditure. In the coming months, I

will provide a comprehensive picture of the Parish finances and what we need to do simply to make ends meet.

### First Communion

Many congratulations to the children in Year 4 at St Oswald's who celebrated their First Communion yesterday (Saturday). Next Saturday, the children in Year 4 at St Benedict's will celebrate their First Communion. Please pray for them.

### Catechist Course

Something we really need in our parish is catechists, i.e. people willing to help to prepare children, young people and adults for the sacraments. There is an opportunity to explore and train for this ministry in the coming weeks. Beginning on 6 May, there will be a Catechist Course at St John Fisher Church, Widnes. It will run for eight weeks: 6.30 – 8.30 pm on Wednesdays 6, 13, 20, 27 May, 3, 10, 17 & Saturday 27 June. If you think this might be a way you could help in the parish, or if you are already a catechist and would like a refresher, please talk with Moses Mui at St Benedict's, or our Deacons or myself, and/or sign up here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/vXWAjbxJdc?origin=lprLink>

### Pentecost 2026

On Pentecost Sunday, we will celebrate the various nationalities that now make up our congregations. We will do this by having the prayers and readings at the 10.30 am Mass in various languages, and then sharing foods from different cultures after Mass. If you would be willing to share some food from your culture, please sign the list at the back of St Benedict's. Many thanks.

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 26 April</b> 4th Sunday of Easter (A) <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Helen Catherine Swift	<b>(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Maureen Floyd <b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners
<b>Monday 27 April</b>		
<b>Tuesday 28 April</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Joseph Cann
<b>Wednesday 29 April</b> Feast of St Catherine of Siena	<b>10.15 am Exposition</b> <b>11.00 am Mass</b> Len Gannon	
<b>Thursday 30 April</b>		<b>11.00 am Mass</b> Terri Sanderson <b>7.00 pm Novena &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Friday 1 May</b> St Joseph the Worker <i>Foundation of our Parish (2018)</i>	<i>Mass at St Gregory's High School</i> <b>No Mass today</b>	
<b>Saturday 2 May</b> St Athanasius	<b>11.00 am &amp; 1.00 pm</b> <b>First Communion Masses</b>	<b>4.30 pm Vigil Mass</b> Mary Taylor
<b>Sunday 3 May</b> 5th Sunday of Easter (A)	<b>10.30 am Mass</b> Ted Melides	<b>8.30 am Mass</b> The Parishioners

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

19.04.26	£787.13	(£273.55 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£246.00	(£191.00 Gift Aid)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1224.38</b>	
Fundraising	£427.00	(St O Easter Raffle)

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

### THANK YOU

"Thank you for the help, support and compassionate response to my Dad's recent passing, and attendance at his Funeral at St Joseph's. Seeing so many of you at the service helped me and the family so very much."  
*Deacon David Boyle*

### HCPT

Following a fantastic week in Lourdes at Easter, HCPT Group 180 from Widnes and the surrounding area invite you to a Quiz Bingo Night at St Oswald's Parish Centre on Friday 8 May. Doors open at 7.30 pm, Quiz starts at 8.00 pm. Come and have fun, meet new people, and help us to raise funds for next year's pilgrimage.

### CONTINUING THE PATH OF SYNODALITY

Pope Leo has invited us to continue to embrace the journey of synodality. We are invited to reflect on the document that came from the final session of the Synod on Synodality called by Pope Francis that Pope Leo is now urging us to embrace at every level in the Church. Tuesdays, 7.00 - 8.30 pm, on 28 April, 5, 12, 19 May. To join the zoom meeting, use the weblink below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89983555285?pwd=VBT0x3xbJiWrU8x00sbiuCGmnO97Xn.1>

Meeting ID: 899 8355 5285 Passcode: 981267

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster.

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)*

<b>Today</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Easter (A)</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 2: 14, 36-41; 1 Peter 2: 20-25 John 10: 1-10
<b>Weekdays</b>	Easter – 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, Margaret Exell, Marguerite Jones, Jean Murphy, Jo Roberts, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts, Wilf Whelan.

*Other Parishes*

Catherine Donaldson, June Fallon, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Pamela Watson, Carol Whitehouse.

**Those who have died recently, especially:**

Helen Murphy, Brian Dayus, Richard Croughton, Maureen Hennessey, Fr Gerry Cobham, Fr James Casey CSsR.