

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Holy Hour for Life

Sunday 19 April 2026

Prayer Intentions

For the dignity of human life from conception to natural death.

That assisted suicide will not become law in our lands.

For all who care and accompany people facing their last days, especially those who work in palliative care – nurses, doctors, people who are home visitors.

For the child in the womb.

For peace in Gaza and the West Bank, Lebanon and Iran, Ukraine, Sudan and Nigeria.

Genesis 1: 26-31

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.

And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding

seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Psalm 139

O Lord, you search me and you know me, you know my resting and my rising, you discern my purpose from afar. You mark when I walk or lie down, all my ways lie open to you.

Before ever a word is on my tongue you know it, O Lord, through and through. Behind and before you besiege me, your hand ever laid upon me. Too wonderful for me this knowledge, too high, beyond my reach.

O where can I go from your spirit, or where can I flee from your face? If I climb the heavens, you are there. If I lie in the grave, you are there.

If I take the wings of the dawn and dwell at the sea's furthest end, even there your hand would lead me, your right hand would hold me fast.

If I say: “Let the darkness hide me and the light around me be night,” even darkness is not dark for you and the night is as clear as the day.

For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation.

Already you knew my soul my body held no secret from you when I was being fashioned in secret and molded in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw all my actions, they were all of them written in your book; every one of my days was decreed before one of them came into being.

To me, how mysterious your thoughts,
the sum of them not to be numbered!
If I count them, they are more than the sand;
to finish, I must be eternal, like you.

O search me, God, and know my heart.
O test me and know my thoughts.
See that I follow not the wrong path
and lead me in the path of life eternal.

Church Teaching

“All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect” (*Pope Francis, Message to Catholics participating in Day for Life in Britain and Ireland, July 28, 2013*).

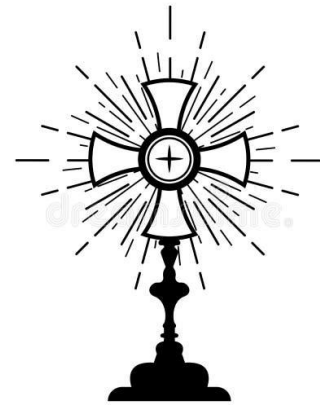
“A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying” (*St. John Paul II, Address to the New Ambassador of New Zealand to the Holy See, 25th May, 2000*).

“Laws which legitimise the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion or euthanasia are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual; they thus deny the equality of everyone before the law” (*Evangelium Vitae, 72*).

“As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God’s gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?” (*St. Pope John Paul II*).

“As life is given by God, so we should be ready to meet God in death when the time comes. For Christians this is a time in which fear and sadness are mixed with hope and love. It is an occasion to surrender ourselves into the hands of God. It is wrong for us to anticipate God’s command and bring about our own deaths...” (*Cherishing Life, Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales 2004*).

Benediction



**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.**

**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)

Prayer of John Henry Newman

O Lord, support us all the day long
of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in thy mercy,
grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest,
and peace at the last.

Final Song

Magnificat, Magnificat,
Magnificat anima mea Dominum.
Magnificat, Magnificat,
Magnificat anima mea!

Acknowledgements

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