

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**5th Sunday of Easter (A)
3 May 2026**

My dear sisters and brothers,

First Communion

Many congratulations to the children in Year 4 at St Benedict's who celebrated their First Communion yesterday (Saturday).

National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse

This Tuesday, 5 May, is the annual Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. This year's focus is on domestic abuse. Some frightening statistics: in the UK, a woman is murdered by a partner or ex-partner every five days; between 3 and 10 women die by suicide every week due to domestic abuse! Men also suffer domestic abuse – a reality that has only been acknowledged in recent years.

Victims of domestic abuse are often afraid to reach out for help – they fear that doing so will make the situation worse. As a priest, I've encountered this situation on a number of occasions. Fortunately, I've been able to put victims in touch with the right people who have immediately come to their aid and prevented any further abuse or reprisals. In short, there is help available which is safe, effective and long lasting. So, please, reach out if you need help:

For women: <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk>
Freephone 0808 2000 247

For men: <https://mensadviceline.org.uk>
Freephone 0808 8010327

Padgate & Woolston Walking Day

Can you help? We need volunteers to help marshal Walking Day this year. If you are able to help or know someone who may be interested, please join us for a Volunteer Briefing on Saturday 9 May at 10.30 am at the

Station House Pub. Thank you. See leaflets at the back of church for more information.

Newsletter Extra

There are all sorts of events coming up this month in the Deanery and the Archdiocese, so please pick up a copy of this month's 'Newsletter Extra' or download it from the Parish website. You never know – there may be something that interests you or that you might be able to help with.

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.

Pray in May

During the month of May, Mary's Meals invites us to take part in their 'Pray in May' campaign. Mary's Meals is a registered charity serving a nutritious daily meal to some of the world's poorest children to attract them into the classroom where they can gain an education and a brighter future. There are 78 million primary school-age children out of school around the world; they have to work or beg to survive. When they do make it into the classroom, hunger affects their ability to learn. Mary's Meals gives children the energy to learn so they can become the men and women who will lift their communities out of poverty in later life. Check out their website: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk> You will find resources for prayer at the back of church.

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 3 May 5th Sunday of Easter (A)	10.30 am Mass Ted Melides	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Mary Taylor 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 4 May Feast of the English Martyrs		
Tuesday 5 May <i>Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse</i>		12.30 pm Funeral Mass Helen Murphy
Wednesday 6 May	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Nora Mutti	
Thursday 7 May		11.00 am Mass Thomas Grealy 12.15 pm Funeral Service Richard Barry Croughton 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 8 May	11.00 am Mass Private Intention (LISC)	<i>(Mass with Y6 in School)</i>
Saturday 9 May		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Vincent Lawton
Sunday 10 May 6th Sunday of Easter (A)	10.30 am Mass Gerald Griffin	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

26.04.26	£676.71	(£261.40 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£233.00	(£133.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1100.96	
2nd Collection	£416.09	(Priests' Training Fund)
First Communion	£384.25	
Fundraising	£230.00	(St Benedict's 200 Club)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

April Winners: £50 Erica Chan, £25 Greg Caswell, £15 Lucy Knowles, £10 Martin Lawton. Many thanks.

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.

NOTRE DAME REUNION

Did you attend a Notre Dame School in the Archdiocese? There will be a reunion on 17 May for all ex-pupils and teachers with Mass at 11.00 am followed by a complimentary light lunch and social at the Irenaeus Centre, Waterloo. A donation for our current charity and a raffle prize would be appreciated. Reply by 3 May to Bernie Shaw on 0161 483 0173 or Berniemshaw@hotmail.com

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	5th Sunday of Easter (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Acts 6: 1-7; 1 Peter 2: 4-9 John 14: 1-12
Weekdays	Easter – Week 5

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, Richard Barry Croughton and Katherine Ann Robinson.