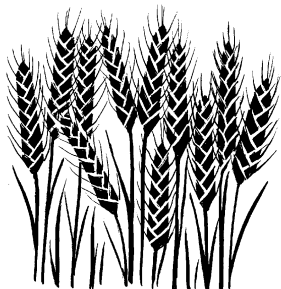


East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
19 July 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

Parish Development Strategy

The Parish Development Strategy, launched in our Deanery last January, is a response to the change we are experiencing with smaller congregations, fewer priests and reduced income.

The audits carried out in each parish earlier this year highlighted the need to reduce the number of churches we have in Warrington. In short, we simply don't have enough money to maintain eight churches and associated buildings! However, this is not just about money. It's also about proactively managing the mission entrusted to us, not least for those who will come after us. So we have to plan for the future.

In the spirit of synodality, the Steering Committees of each Family of Parishes have been asked to discern possible plans for moving forward. Once there is some kind of consensus, a potential plan will be shared with parishioners for further discernment – probably in the Autumn.

At present, there is nothing set in stone and no decisions have been made. We're very much in the first part of the discernment process – trying to work out a potential plan that we can present to parishioners.

I understand that there is some guesswork going on, but that's all it is. We have a strategy to follow, which was shared with parishioners earlier in the year, and is there to help us on this journey.

Please pray for the Steering Committees as they try to discern what our Lord may be asking of us.

Lectio Divina

St Benedict taught his monks a particular way of reading the Scriptures. It's called 'Lectio Divina' which

is Latin for 'Divine Reading'. He told his monks to take a passage of scripture (like today's Gospel) and read it slowly and aloud. Then pause and simply notice a word or phrase that catches your attention. Then re-read the passage slowly, apply the words to your life or whatever you're going through, and ask: what is God saying to me? Finally, speak to the Lord about what his word has stirred up in you.

"Do not forget us!"

One thousand days after the outbreak of the war, Fr Gabriel Romanelli, parish priest at the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza, has made a poignant appeal to the world, confirming that the thousands of children who have been killed, orphaned, or injured "represent a reality beyond belief", and that this tragedy must push the world to say, "Enough", and to start a real path toward peace. He added that about 2.3 million people have been left to their fate, living in tents with no water or electricity, amid the spread of rats, epidemics and diseases. Watch his appeal on YouTube here:

www.youtube.com/@P.GabrielRomanelli/videos

Summer Holidays

As soon as the schools break up, I usually take a summer break for two weeks. This year, St Oswald's broke up for the summer on Friday, but St Benedict's have another week to go! I'm afraid I'm not hanging around! So I'll be off this afternoon (Sunday) until Saturday 1 August. The priests of the deanery have kindly offered to cover the Masses next weekend, but there will be no weekday Masses for the next two weeks. In addition, the Parish Office and St Benedict's Church will be open on Wednesday and Friday, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. I do hope you can have a break sometime during the summer too.

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. Tel: 01925 630127. Email address: blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.uk
Please note: The Parish Office will only be open on Wednesday and Friday this week, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm.

3) **Parish Website:** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk

4) **St Benedict's Church** will only be open on Wednesday and Friday this week, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm.

5) **Confessions:** This week – on request after Mass.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 19 July 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)	10.30 am Baptism Mass The Parishioners	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Margaret Cooper 8.30 am Mass Annie McGinty & Derrick Roberts
Monday 20 July		
Tuesday 21 July		<i>No Mass today</i>
Wednesday 22 July Feast of St Mary Magdalene	<i>No Exposition or Mass today</i>	
Thursday 23 July Feast of St Bridget		<i>No Mass or Novena today</i>
Friday 24 July	<i>No Mass today</i>	
Saturday 25 July Feast of St James		4.30 pm Vigil Mass John Joseph Dean
Sunday 26 July 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>World Day of Prayer for Grandparents & Older People</i>	10.30 am Mass Olive Elizabeth Swift	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

12.07.26	£675.78	(£278.90 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£291.00	(£141.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1158.03	
Fundraising	£948.00	(Sponsored Walk)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be the annual Second Collection to support our priests living in retirement. Priest can retire when they reach the age of 75. Like most people, they then live on the state pension. However, the Archdiocese provides accommodation either in flats or presbyteries that are no longer in use. Today's collection helps towards the cost of this accommodation.

FUN IN THE SUN & STRAWBERRY FAIR

To launch the summer holidays and celebrate the diversity that makes up our parish community, St Benedict's will be holding the annual 'Fun in the Sun' (especially for children) as well as a Strawberry Fair after the 10.30 am Mass today. All are welcome.

ANNUAL LOURDES MASS

The Annual Archdiocesan Lourdes Mass takes place in the Cathedral today (Sunday) at 3.00 pm. All are welcome. If you would like to join the pilgrimage in prayer, there are copies of a Novena at the back of church and on the Parish website. The pilgrimage begins on Wednesday and there will be video messages and prayers on social media each day. For details, see the Parish website and this month's 'Newsletter Extra'.

PARISH SAFER RECRUITMENT & DBS REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19 Romans 8: 26-27 Matthew 13: 24-30
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 16

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

Fr Leo Cooper, Catherine Donaldson, June Fallon, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Fr Hubert Strowbridge, Pamela Watson, Carol Whitehouse.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Michael Raymond Fylan, Maria Ann Knight.