

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
26 July 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

Welcome!

A very warm welcome and thanks to Fr Stephen (helping out at St Peter's), Fr John Schofield and Canon Christopher Cunningham who will be presiding at the Masses this weekend while I have a break.

May I also extend a warm welcome to visitors, those who have come home for the summer, and to guests of parishioners.

World Day for Grandparents and Older People

Today is the sixth World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and Older People – the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Pope Leo has written a beautiful message for the day entitled, 'I will never forget you' (cf. *Isaiah 49: 15*). There are copies of his message at the back of church and on the Parish website.

Pope Leo has a particular word for us, especially young people: "May this day... be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them. Bring them, through this message and your presence, the closeness and affection of the Pope. Ensure that the words of the prophet, 'I will never forget you', take the form of a tender and affectionate encounter."

Holy Father,
who watches over every person,
watch over me too when I am elderly.

You have revealed your name to me in Christ,
and you were not discouraged by my frailties.
You hold me tenderly in your hands,
and you caress my lines. You will never forget me!

Grant that I may not fear my weakness:
help me learn to love it – just as you love it;
help me learn to listen to it – just as you listen to it;
help me embrace it – just as you have chosen it:
you who, though all-powerful, clothed yourself in
humility.

May growing old strip away all our pride and all
division so that we may live these years united in
you. You will never forget us! Amen.

Thank you

Many thanks to all those who organised last weekend's Strawberry Fair and 'Fun in the Sun'. It was a lovely way to mark the end of term and the beginning of the summer holidays. The children thoroughly enjoyed the games and ice cream, and it was the first time in years that we've been able to have the Strawberry Fair outside without it raining!

Deacon Dan Howarth

I am delighted to announce that Archbishop John will ordain Deacon Dan to the priesthood at St Oswald's, Padgate, on Saturday 24 October at 12.00 noon. Please put the date in your diary.

Feast of St Oswald, King & Martyr

Next weekend, we will keep the feast of St Oswald, King and Martyr, transferred from 5 August – the date of St Oswald's death in the year 642. While this is a special feast for the community at St Oswald's, it's also a special day for the rest of us since we came together as one Parish in 2018.

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.'

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
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	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass John Joseph Dean 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 27 July		
Tuesday 28 July		<i>No Mass today</i>
Wednesday 29 July Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus	<i>No Exposition or Mass today</i>	
Thursday 30 July		<i>No Mass or Novena today</i>
Friday 31 July St Ignatius Loyola	<i>No Mass today</i>	
Saturday 1 August St Alphonsus Liguori		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Una McQuaid
Sunday 2 August Feast of St Oswald, King & Martyr <i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</i>	10.30 am Mass Clem Lawton	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

19.07.26	£976.81	(£296.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£216.00	(£151.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1384.06	
2nd Collection	£538.11	(Priests in Retirement)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday 11 September.

Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, writes: "This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your MP to petition them to vote against the Bill."

Please support the Archbishop's call and contact your MP now as a matter of urgency. Even if you have already done so in the past, please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity **Right to Life UK** has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes just a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to your MP. The website address is:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote>

For more information and resources:

www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide

PARISH SAFER RECRUITMENT & DBS REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	1 Kings 3: 5-6, 7-12 Romans 8: 28-30 Matthew 13: 44-52
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 17

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:

Hung Tak Poon (*Funeral at Walton Lea on Thursday 30 July*), Maria Ann Knight (*Funeral Service at 10.30 am on Tuesday 4 August at St Oswald's*).