

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

**Solemnity of the Assumption of
the Blessed Virgin Mary**
16 August 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

Welcome!

A very warm welcome to visitors, those who have come home for the summer, and to guests of parishioners. This week, a greeting in Slovak:

**Veľmi srdečné privítanie všetkých našich
návštevníkov. Dúfame, že máte dobrú dovolenku
tu v meste Warrington.**

"A very warm welcome to all our visitors.

We hope you have a good holiday here in Warrington."

Solemnity of the Assumption

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary (*transferred from 15 August*). The feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century as the 'Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God'. It was adopted in Rome in the mid-seventh century and was renamed the 'Assumption'. The feast celebrates Mary's passing over, body and soul, from this world into the glory of heaven. Where she has gone, we hope one day to follow. The picture above depicts today's Gospel: Mary greeting her cousin, Elizabeth.

Annual Mission Appeal

Next weekend, Fr Stephen Adedeji OSJ will join us to make the annual Mission Appeal. Some of you will have already met him – he covered the Saturday evening Mass while I was away at the end of July.

Fr Stephen is a member of the Oblates of St Joseph, a Catholic religious institute founded in 1878 by St Joseph Marelli. The principal apostolate of the Oblates of St

Joseph is to work with the youth and the poor. Currently, the Oblates serve in many different capacities, depending upon the needs of the bishops where they serve.

Fr Joe Kendall

Last weekend, we were shocked to hear of the sudden death of one of our younger priests, Fr Joe Kendall. Some of you may remember Fr Joe from his placement prior to ordination at St Stephen's. Fr Joe was ordained to the priesthood in 2012 and served in Garston before taking up the position as Vice Rector of the Seminary in Valladolid. Let us hold his family, friends, and all those who knew and loved him in our prayers at this time.

Palestinians in the West Bank

The suffering in the Holy Land has gone on for far too long. One of the greatest obstacles to building peace is the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements across occupied Palestinian territory. As settlements expand, Palestinian families are driven from their homes, often amid violent attacks, and are forced to watch while settlers take over – destroying crops, stealing cattle and burning their homes. The result is widespread poverty and suffering. CAFOD is calling on the Trade Secretary, Jonathan Reynolds, to ban trade with these illegal settlements, including ending the import of produce grown on illegally occupied land. Please add your name to their letter online at this address:

<https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/196290/action/1>

Pilgrimages

Please see this month's 'Newsletter Extra' for forthcoming pilgrimage days in the Archdiocese.

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 16 August Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary	10.30 am Mass Special Intention	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners 8.30 am Mass Patrick & Marion Naughton
Monday 17 August		
Tuesday 18 August		11.00 am Mass Linda O'Hara
Wednesday 19 August	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass John McCarthy	<i>4.00 pm Funeral at Walton Lea</i> <i>(Edward Tilley)</i>
Thursday 20 August St Bernard		No Mass or Novena today <i>(Deanery Synodal Council</i> <i>Vision & Mission Day)</i>
Friday 21 August St Pius X	11.00 am Mass Agnes & William McCool	
Saturday 22 August Queenship of Mary	1.00 pm Wedding Mass Eleanor Walker & Renji Shaji	4.30 pm Vigil Mass Bruce Felskie
Sunday 23 August 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Dedication of Co-Cathedral in Isle of Man</i>	10.30 am Baptism Mass Len Gannon	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

09.08.26	£716.28	(£298.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£281.00	(£141.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1188.53	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

PRACTICAL HELP FOR REFUGEES

- a) Do you have a spare **bicycle** in working order or not (men's, women's or children's)? If so, please phone 815646 or the Parish Office. Unwanted accessories (helmets, pumps, locks, etc) would also be welcome.
- b) Care UK needs **new underwear**, 80% male 20% female, mainly small and medium, but all sizes are needed. Care UK are also looking for **old mobile working phones** with chargers?

These items can be taken directly to Care UK (Riverside Retail Park) or left in church. Many thanks.

- c) The Warrington Asylum Seeker and Refugee Support Group are planning a **multicultural recipe book** and are looking for a volunteer who knows how to organise and get the book ready for publishing. Do you know someone who might be able to help? If so, please let Fr Dave know. Many thanks.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill returns to the House of Commons for its Second Reading on 11 September. Those wishing to express their opposition are encouraged to contact their MP using the online resources provided by CBCEW in association with Right to Life UK. For more information and resources: <https://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 4)

Today	The Assumption of Mary
<i>Readings</i>	Revelation 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10 1 Corinthians 15: 20-27 Luke 1: 39-56
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 20

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:

Eric Morgan, Fr John Joyce, Edward Tilley, Fr Joe Kendall.