

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Feast of St Oswald, King & Martyr

1/2 August 2026
(Transferred from 5 August)

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

- 1 **Holy Oswald, king and martyr,
refugee and royal son,
born in Christ upon Iona,
later you your kingdom won.
There you raised the cross of Jesus,
in the vigour of your youth;
taught your people of its meaning,
faith and hope and love and truth.**
- 2 **From Iona you called Aidan,
gave him Lindisfarne for home.
As translator and defender,
with him did your kingdom roam,
sharing Christ with all who met you,
and baptising as you went,
knowing that you both as brothers
were by God on mission sent.**
- 3 **Holy Oswald, now in heaven,
wear you an eternal crown.
Through the Church, your sacred story
to our day has passed on down.
In this time of great confusion,
hope and joys, yet many fears:
pray for us as we salute you,
one in Christ across the years.**

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Greeting & Penitential Act

Gloria

Please join in singing the refrain:

Gloria in excelsis, in excelsis Deo! (x2)

Collect

Almighty and merciful God,
who so kindled the faith of St Oswald with your Spirit
that he set up the sign of the Cross in his kingdom
and turned his people to the light of Christ:
grant that we, being fired by the same Spirit,
may always bear our cross before the world
and be found faithful servants of the Gospel.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading

(Isaiah 55: 1-3)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

'Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money
for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 144

**The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.**

- 1 The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The Lord is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.
- 2 The eyes of all look hopefully to you,
and you give them their food in due season;
you open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Second Reading

(Romans 8: 35, 37-39)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel *(Matthew 14: 13-21)*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Rite of Welcome

On this first Sunday of the month, some of the children who are going to be baptised in the coming weeks are welcomed into the Christian community.

A Profession of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn: Gifts of bread and wine (643)

Prayer over the Offerings

Most merciful God,
pour out your blessing upon these offerings
and confirm us in the faith
that St Oswald professed by the shedding of his blood.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Mass of Hope – Bernadette Farrell (559)
**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy Lord, Holy Lord, God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is he
who comes in the name,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

Our Father

Notre père... Têve Mûşu... Vater unser... Ojczy nasz...
Padre nostro... 我們的天父

Sign of Peace

Please exchange the Sign of Peace with those around you in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

Communion

St O: Come to the water (408)

Prayer after Communion

As we celebrate the heavenly banquet,
we beseech you, Lord,
that, in following such a great example of faith,
we may be encouraged by the remembrance
of the Martyr, St Oswald,
and led on by his gracious intercession.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Now thank we all our God (945)

Acknowledgements

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