

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

23 August 2026

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

The Church's one foundation (830)

Greeting & Penitential Act

Gloria

If sung: Mass of Christ the Saviour (1013)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Collect

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,

that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
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

First Reading

(Isaiah 22: 15, 19-23)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, 'Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: "I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father's house." '

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

**Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels
I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple.
- 2 I will give thanks to your name,
because of your kindness and your truth:
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.

Second Reading

(Romans 11: 33-36)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Matthew 16: 13-20)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (Annual Mission Appeal)

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(All bow at the following words)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

St O: Air from Water Music – Handel

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. 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 Song

Jesus Christ, you are my life – Marco Frisina

Prayer after Communion

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Final Song

Colours of day (974)

Acknowledgements

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Scripture Readings from the English translation of the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2023 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and Bishops' Conference of Scotland. Psalm from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States* © 1970, 1997, 1998 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.