

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
4 October 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

St Francis of Assisi

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi on 3 October 1226. Pope Leo has offered this prayer for the occasion:

*Saint Francis, our brother,
you who eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.
You recognised true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano.
Teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.
You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and
misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up boundaries.
In this time afflicted by conflict and division,
intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace
that comes from Christ. Amen.*

Blessing of Animals

The annual Blessing of Animals will take place at St Benedict's today (Sunday) at 2.00 pm. This short service provides an opportunity to thank God for our animal friends, to bless those who are poorly, remember our beloved pets who have died, and pray for the many animals that suffer in our own country and across the world. The service will last about 25 minutes and will be followed by some treats for pets and refreshments for their servants!

Deacon Dan's Ordination

A reminder that Archbishop John will ordain Deacon Daniel Howarth to the Priesthood at 12.00 noon on Saturday 24 October at St Oswald's.

Parish Gift

Some parishioners have asked about having a collection for Dan. Given that we already have a number of second collections during the year in addition to fundraising efforts, I decided to use some money from Parish funds to buy Deacon Dan a gift from parishioners. The gift is a set of vestments (alb, stole and Archdiocesan chasuble) for his ordination. I know this is something he needs and wants. If you want to offer him a personal gift, I suggest some money so that he can buy the other things he will need for his ministry as a priest.

Working Party

There's quite a lot to do for Dan's ordination which is just three weeks away. Most things are in hand, but there are lots of little things that need to be done. If you could help, there will be a meeting in St Oswald's Presbytery this Wednesday, 7 October, at 2.00 pm. Please come along if you can.

Mustard Seed Children's Club

The next meeting of the 'Mustard Seed Children's Club' (for children who've celebrated their First Communion) will take place after the 10.30 am Mass at St Benedict's next Sunday.

Parish Development Strategy

Given the concern of some parishioners about the Parish Development Strategy launched last January and the possible closure of some churches in the coming years, I have invited Mgr Philip Inch to address parishioners at St Benedict's on Thursday 22 October at 1.30 pm.

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 4 October 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>(St Francis of Assisi)</i>	10.30 am Mass Wellbeing of all Animals 2.00 pm Blessing of Animals	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Vincent Hennessey 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 5 October		
Tuesday 6 October	11.00 am Mass Stanislaw & Genowefa Matkowski	<i>Mass at St Benedict's</i>
Wednesday 7 October Our Lady of the Rosary	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Deceased Canons	
Thursday 8 October	11.00 am Mass Mgr Francis Frost	<i>Mass at St Benedict's</i> 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 9 October Feast of St John Henry Newman	11.00 am Mass Private Intention (LISC)	<i>Welcome Service for Reception in School</i>
Saturday 10 October		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Robert Ross
Sunday 11 October 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)	10.30 am Mass Toni	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

27.09.26	£758.81	(£310.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£161.25	(£127.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£80.00	(£35.00 Gift Aid)
Total	£1000.06	
Fundraising	£320.00	(Edward's Run)
Donation	£200.00	(St O Restoration)
<i>Thank you so much for your generosity.</i>		

SECOND COLLECTION

There is a Second Collection as you leave church today for CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day.

THANK YOU

Edward Chan, one of the altar servers at St Benedict's, decided to take part in the 5K Run in Warrington with his father recently to raise funds for St Benedict's. He completed the run and raised £320! Thank you so much for your kindness, Edward, and to all those who sponsored you.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

During the month of October, Fr Dave will lead the Rosary each week. This week, the Rosary will be prayed after the 11.00 am Mass on Tuesday.

ADOREMUS

Saturday 10 October, 9.00 am – 6.00 pm

Join us for this year's Adoremus at the Cathedral. The theme is "We Are Eucharist". The event is free and available to all. There will be Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day, Mass, opportunities for Confession, a variety of workshops, and a shared time of prayer for all. Sign up for workshops here: www.archdioceseofliverpool.org/adoremus2026

PARISH SAFER RECRUITMENT & DBS REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster
Archdiocesan Safeguarding Department:
0151 522 1043 or safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 3)

Today	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 5: 1-7 Philippians 4: 6-9 Matthew 21: 33-43
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 27

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, 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:

Colin Yates, Janet Gibson.