East Warrington Family of Parishes

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

World Day of the Poor

15 November 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

World Day of the Poor

Today is the tenth World Day of the Poor established by Pope Francis in 2017. In his message for the day, Pope Leo echoes the words of Pope Francis who reminded us that "we are the Lord's Church, a Church of the poor." When we look at the Church in our own country, is this the Church we see, a Church of the poor?

Quoting from his first exhortation, *Dilexi te*, Pope Leo writes: "God shows a preference for the poor: the Lord's words of hope and liberation are addressed first of all to them. Therefore, even in their poverty or weakness, no one should feel abandoned. And the Church, if she wants to be Christ's Church, must be a Church of the Beatitudes, one that makes room for the little ones and walks poor with the poor, a place where the poor have a privileged place" (#21).

Archdiocesan Synodal Council

Love was at the heart of last Saturday's annual Archdiocesan Synodal Council. Clergy, parish representatives and invited experts came together to reflect on what 'Caritas' means for the Archdiocese of Liverpool. In his keynote speech, Archbishop John drew on the love of the Trinity to remind us that every baptised person is called to share that love through care for others. In serving people who are poor, marginalised or suffering, we encounter the face of Christ. This is at the heart of the Church's mission.

Archbishop John invited parishes and deaneries to recognise and share the good work already happening in their communities. He encouraged them to use 'See, Judge and Act' to listen more closely to their neighbours, reflect on what they hear in the light of faith, and discern how to respond with love. Contributions from Nugent and Caritas Salford, together with prayerful 'Conversations in the Spirit', helped those gathered to reflect on practical plans for how we might organise and sustain this work. A full report will be available soon.

Red Wednesday

This Wednesday, 18 November, is the tenth anniversary of 'Red' Wednesday launched by 'Aid to the Church in Need' in 2016. This annual day is an opportunity to stand in solidarity with Christians, and others, who are persecuted for their peacefully held beliefs. There are four practical ways we could do this:

1) We could light a candle and say a prayer – at home or in church.
2) We could go to Mass and offer it for those who are suffering for their faith.
3) We could wear something 'red' on Wednesday. Red is the liturgical colour we use for martyrs.
4) We could find out more about Red Wednesday at: https://acnuk.org/redwednesday

Advent Collections

For the people of Gaza – please place any offerings in an envelope marked 'Gaza' and put them in the Sunday collection or hand them into the Parish Office.

St Francis Collection – food, treats and toys for cats, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs to help Warrington Animal Welfare care for the enormous number of animals that are tragically abandoned, especially over Christmas. *Please note:* rawhide in treats is bad for dogs.

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 15 November 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) *World Day of the Poor*	**10.30 am Mass** Men's Group – Past & Present	**(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass** Brian Plumb **8.30 am Mass** The Parishioners
Monday 16 November		
Tuesday 17 November	**11.00 am Mass** John Spittle	*Mass at St Benedict's because of building works*
Wednesday 18 November *'Red' Wednesday*	**10.15 am Exposition** **11.00 am Mass** Bernard Ward	
Thursday 19 November	**11.00 am Mass** Sean O'Brien	*Mass at St Benedict's* **7.00 pm Novena & Benediction**
Friday 20 November	**10.30 am Funeral Service** Victoria Ann Rogers	
Saturday 21 November The Presentation of Mary		**4.30 pm Vigil Mass** Danny Woodward Jr
Sunday 22 November Solemnity of Christ the King (A) *Youth Sunday*	**10.30 am Mass** Harry Howl	**8.30 am Mass** The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

08.11.26	£825.98	*(£323.61 Gift Aid)*
Standing Orders	£161.25	*(£127.50 Gift Aid)*
Total	**£987.23**	
Donations	£1030.00	*(SVP from St Stephen's)*
	£100.00	*(St Oswald's Repairs)*
	£50.00	*(Parish)*

Thank you so much for your generosity.

DIGITAL GIVING

We are in the process of upgrading the 'Tap & Go' facilities in both churches. This meant the old machines weren't working last weekend. I'm hoping the new machines will be in place and working this weekend.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AT ST OSWALD'S

Jayne Woodward at St Oswald's is very kindly putting together some hampers for a Christmas Raffle to help raise funds to repair the interior walls of the church. Donations of suitable prizes would be very welcome.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AT ST BENEDICT'S

St Benedict's will be hosting a Children's Party on Sunday 13 December in the Parish Centre after the 10.30 am Mass. If you can donate a prize for the raffle or an item for a Christmas hamper, they would be very grateful.

FAIRTRADE STALL

There will be a Fairtrade Stall after the Masses next weekend. Many thanks to Mary Hallam (St Peter's) and Clare Lancaster for organising this for us. Buying Fairtrade helps farmers and workers in developing countries to get better trading conditions, fairer pay as well as supporting sustainable farming.

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 1)

Today	**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**
Readings	Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31
	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6
	Matthew 25: 14-30
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 33

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 Moulsdale, 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, Ann Weaver, Wilf Whelan.

Other Parishes

Catherine Donaldson, June Fallon, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Pamela Watson, Carol Whitehouse.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Fr Tom Gagie, Victoria Ann Rogers.

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