East Warrington Family of Parishes

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Newsletter

1st Sunday of Advent (B)

29 November 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

The Season of Advent

Today we begin a new Church year with the Season of Advent – a time of preparation for the great feast of Christmas. As we bless and light the Advent Wreath in church, you might like to do the same at home:

> **Lord God,**
> **bless this wreath which we will use**
> **to prepare for the birth of your Son.**
> **May its light scatter the darkness in our lives,**
> **warm our hearts with hope,**
> **and guide us into the way of peace.**

The annual publication, *'Walk With Me'*, is available (free of charge) in church. There are also Advent Calendars for Children. The Irish Catholic Bishops are providing a thought and a prayer for each day of Advent on their Digital Calendar which you can find online here: www.catholicbishops.ie CAFOD are also providing a daily prayer and reflection for Advent. They will send these to you by email. If you wish to receive them, you can sign up here: https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar

"Confessathon!"

The priests have set aside Saturday 12 December to be available for Confessions at St Alban's Church from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. During this time, there will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We hope this opportunity will be helpful, especially if it's sometime since you last celebrated the sacrament.

Parish Christmas Party

There will be a Parish Christmas Party for all on Sunday 13 December in St Benedict's Parish Centre from 11.45 am. I mistakenly advertised this as a Children's Party last weekend… my apologies. Everyone is welcome. Adults £3 on the door, no charge for children.

New Welcome Centre at the Cathedral

You are invited to a public consultation at the Cathedral about the plans for a new Welcome Centre. The event will take place in the Cathedral's Gibberd Room this **Wednesday** (2 December), 4.00 to 7.00 pm and repeated next **Sunday** (6 December), 12.00 to 3.00 pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to view and comment on the proposals for the new Welcome Centre which would include a café, retail space, conference facilities and other amenities. The development aims to enhance the experience of the thousands of people who visit the cathedral each year. More details can be found here: https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/news/cathedral-welcomes-public-consultation-new-welcome-centre-plans

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.

From Glasgow to Bethlehem

Today (Sunday), Christians in Glasgow will join Christians in Bethlehem online at 2.30 pm to pray for peace. Wherever you are, you can join in the service live on YouTube: www.youtube.com/live/SwwrspPezVo

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.
Assistant Priest: Fr Dan Howarth.
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 29 November 1st Sunday of Advent (B)	**10.30 am Mass** Gladys & Tom Daley	**(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass** John Bernard McGinty **8.30 am Mass** The Parishioners
Monday 30 November Feast of St Andrew		
Tuesday 1 December	**11.00 am Mass** Eileen Warburton	*Mass at St Benedict's* *Confessions for Year 6 in school*
Wednesday 2 December	**10.15 am Exposition** **11.00 am Mass** Dennis Chan	
Thursday 3 December St Francis Xavier *(Migrants Day)*	**11.00 am Mass** Margaret & Joe Butler	*Mass at St Benedict's* **No Novena during December**
Friday 4 December	**11.00 am Mass** Jeffryn Unite & Family	
Saturday 5 December St John Almond		**4.30 pm Vigil Mass** Ken Hindle
Sunday 6 December 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)	**10.30 am Mass** Peter Milner	**8.30 am Mass** The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

22.11.26	£674.70	*(£280.50 Gift Aid)*
Standing Orders	£168.75	*(£135.00 Gift Aid)*
Digital Giving	£376.95	*(£210.00 Gift Aid)*
Total	**£1220.40**	
2nd Collection	£219.00	*(Animate Youth)*
Pious Lists	£284.00	*(Priests Training Fund)*
Fairtrade Stall	£220.00	
Donation	£50.00	*(St O Restoration)*

Thank you so much for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLES

Many thanks for the very generous response to the Christmas Raffles at both churches.

REFUGEES AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be a lonely time if you're an asylum seeker or refugee. We're hoping to at least give a little gift to those living in Warrington this Christmas. Volunteers are making small fabric bags which we hope to fill with small items, such as chocolate bars, gloves, hat, socks, pen, notebook, shampoo, packs of playing cards, etc. If you could help by donating any of these or similar items, please leave them in the box at the back of church. Thank you so much.

THANK YOU

Margo and Tony Chriscoli would like to thank Fr Dave and the community at St Benedict's for the beautiful Papal Blessing and all the good wishes on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding.

NEWSLETTER EXTRA

Next weekend's Newsletter Extra will include all the events going on in the run up to Christmas.

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	**1st Sunday of Advent (B)**
Readings	Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8
	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
	Mark 13: 33-37
Weekdays	Adent – Week 1

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, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Ged Hughes, Gail Hyamson, Jim Hyland, Vin Jackson, Judith McDowall, Trina Moulsdale, Christine Murphy, Ann Pearson, Vincent Pinnock, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, John Ryan, 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, Charles Malone *(Funeral Mass at 10.30 am on Tuesday 8 December at St Benedict's).*

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