

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



Archdiocese of Liverpool

Newsletter

Sunday 25 December 2016

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord



Our Benedictine Heritage

Parish Priest: Fr Dave Heywood

Deacons: Revv Michael Birchall, David Boyle, Michael Oxley & Tony Kerrigan (rtd)

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Office: stbenedicts.warrington@rcaolp.co.uk

Personal: frdave@rcaolp.co.uk

St Benedict's Church is open Monday - Friday 9.00 am – 4.30 pm for Private Prayer (Exc. Bank Holidays)

St Benedict's & St Oswald's Masses & Services 25 December 2016 - 1 January 2017		
	ST BENEDICT'S Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE	ST OSWALD'S Padgate Lane, Warrington WA1 3LB
Sunday 25 December <i>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</i> Christmas Day	(Sat) 11.30 pm Christmas Midnight Mass <i>The Parishioners</i> 10.30 am Christmas Day Children's Mass <i>People of Palestine</i>	(Sat) 6.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass <i>Edna Harrison</i> 8.00 pm Polish Mass 8.30 am Christmas Dawn Mass <i>Vincent Hennessey</i> 2.00 pm Polish Mass
Monday 26 December <i>Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr</i>		2.00 pm Polish Mass No Prayer Group <i>(Resumes 9 January)</i>
Tuesday 27 December <i>Feast of St John, Apostle & Evangelist</i>	12.15 pm Mass <i>Lisa, Mike & Family</i>	<i>No Morning Mass today</i>
Wednesday 28 December <i>Feast of the Holy Innocents</i>	No Morning Mass Today	12.30 pm Wedding Service <i>Natalie Smith & Andrew Bellis</i>
Thursday 29 December <i>Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury</i>		9.30 am Mass <i>Annie & Timothy Dewane</i> 7.30 pm Novena
Friday 30 December <i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>	12.15 pm Mass <i>Matthew Shaw</i> No Meditation	4.00 pm Wedding Service <i>Catherine Whitlow & Andrew Unsworth</i>
Saturday 31 December <i>New Year's Eve</i>	11.15 pm New Year's Eve Vigil Mass <i>Colin Sykes</i>	<i>No Exposition Today</i> 6.00 pm Vigil Mass <i>Thanksgiving (St Martin de Porres)</i>
Sunday 1 January 2017 <i>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God</i> New Year's Day	10.30 am Mass <i>Brindle Family</i>	8.30 am Mass <i>The Parishioners</i> <i>Anne Williams</i> 3.30 pm Polish Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confessions)

Saturdays 10.00 am – 11.45 am St Mary's*
5.15 pm – 5.45 pm St Oswald's
Weekdays 11.40 am – 12.05 pm St Mary's
Tuesdays 11.30 am – 12.05 pm St Benedict's*

*With Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

WEBSITES Parish: stmarysandsstbenedictswarrington.co.uk

St Mary's: www.stmaryswarrington.org.uk



St Mary's Shrine, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NS

Telephone: 01925 635664 Website: www.stmaryswarrington.org.uk

Served by the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter

Rector: Fr de Malleray FSSP malleray@fssp.org Assistant: Fr Mawdsley FSSP james.mawdsley@fssp.org

Seminarian: Thomas FSSP tosullivan@olgseminary.org

LATIN MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM (with translations)

Holy Mass <i>Sunday</i> 11.00 am & 6.00 pm <i>Monday to Saturday</i> 12.10 pm	Confessions <i>Everyday</i> 30 minutes before Mass <i>Saturday</i> 10.00 – 11.45 am	Adoration & Benediction <i>Saturday</i> 10.00 – 12.00 noon	Holy Rosary <i>Sunday</i> 5.30 pm <i>Monday to Saturday</i> 11.30 am
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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

It is very easy to lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas amidst the tinsel, glitter, food and drink, and yet the realities of that first Christmas are all around us today and we don't have to look far to see them. Refugees in a strange land, homelessness, oppression, poverty, cold, hunger - all part of our world today. It would be easy and simplistic to say that nothing has changed, but it has: Jesus embraced our human condition in its entirety: born a refugee under an occupying power, born homeless and in poverty, cold and hungry. In so doing he brought us hope.

Christmas time is rightly a time of celebration but it's also a time of giving. We give presents, we share with others, we give our time, our food, our money, our goods, to help those in need in today's world. We open our hearts to others and in so doing open them to God as we do in prayer when we celebrate Mass at Christmas. In remembering the birth of the Christ child we hear his cry for those in need, not least in the land of his birth. I visited the Holy Land recently and saw at first hand a suffering people, I will pray for and with them at Mass this Christmas and for all at home.

In the darkest days of the year when we have a lot to worry about such as keeping warm, feeding our family, the effects of economic changes and Brexit, the true Light has come in our lives to give us real hope, not just wishful thinking. The Light of the world shows us the way out of the gloomy low point of the seasons to a brighter future ahead. It is our belief that the child born in the manger will guide us and support us, that makes all the festivities worthwhile.

Let us make the song of the angels our own: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to people of goodwill.'

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA & YEMEN

Lord Jesus,
is it too soon for nativity plays
to include the slaughter of the innocent?
The end of the seasonal story, often ignored,
screams at us now from silent screens.
And while the tinsel is hung,
and fairy lights blink,
Christmas seems hollow tonight.



We pray for those in Syria and Yemen
witnessing an inhumanity
no one should have to see,
enduring suffering
no one should have to bear,
heartbroken by a despair
no one should have to know.

*Mary,
Queen of Peace,
pray for Syria,
pray for us.*

Give them strength beyond
themselves.
Hold them in the way only you can.
Comfort them as the Prince of Peace.
And give us ears to hear,
hearts to care,
and the tenacity to light the way.
Lord, have mercy.
Amen.



EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR YEMEN

Given the dire situation in Yemen, there will be the opportunity to contribute to the DEC's Yemen Emergency Appeal after the Masses this weekend.



CRIB OFFERINGS

This year's Crib Offerings will be used to help those who are poor, vulnerable and in need here in Warrington.

ALTERNATIVE NEW YEAR IN CHURCH

New Year's Eve Mass

If you would like to welcome in the New Year in church, there will be a Vigil Mass at 11.15 pm on New Year's Eve at St Benedict's, followed by the chimes of Big Ben (live), a New Year Blessing, and some cheese and wine.

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers are invited to renew their commitment at Mass on Saturday/Sunday, 7 or 8 January. New servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen. After the 10.30 am Mass at St Benedict's, all servers are invited to stay for lunch together.

COMING TO THE PARISHES IN JANUARY...

"Believe - Reflections on the Creed" is a six-part series exploring the treasures of our faith as expressed in the Creed we say at Sunday Mass. The sessions will include DVD interviews with prominent men and women of faith, testimonies from people, Scripture and Catechism quotations, questions for discussion and times of prayerful reflection. *Full details and booking information next week.*

MANY THANKS to the parishioners who assembled 220 Christingles in an hour last Tuesday morning at St Oswald's. You did a superb job and I am very grateful. *Fr Dave*

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

In all the joy of Christmas, there can be sadness too – especially if we're missing a loved one who has died.

I see the countless Christmas Trees
Around the world below
With tiny lights, like Heavens stars
Reflecting in the snow.
The sight is so spectacular,
Please wipe away a tear
For I am spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.

I hear many Christmas songs
That people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare
With the Christmas Choir up here.
I have no words to tell you,
The joy their voices bring;
For it's beyond description
To hear an angel sing.

I know how much you miss me
For I feel your breaking heart;
But through our memories, oh so dear
We're never far apart.
I can't tell you of the splendour
Or the peace that's in this place,
Can you just imagine Christmas
With our Saviour face to face?

I'll ask him to light your spirit
As I tell him of your love;
Then pray for one another
As you lift your eyes above.
So let your heart be joyful
And let your spirit sing
For I am spending Christmas in heaven
And I'm walking with the King.

THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

During the Christmas period, the name Bethlehem will be heard in homes, schools and parishes all over the world. This is the place where Jesus was born, and today you can still visit the site of his birth over 2,000 years ago. But while Bethlehem captures the world's attention during Advent, it remains sadly forgotten at other times of the year. It is spoken of as though it is an historical place, not one where people continue to live and face injustices on a daily basis.

Today, Bethlehem is torn by the separation wall – the wall that divides the West Bank from Israel, and cuts Bethlehem from Jerusalem. It is ironic, in a sense, that the city which saw Mary and Joseph turned away from accommodation today faces such an immense physical barrier. The wall which cuts Bethlehem – separating farmers from their land and people from family members – stands against the message of hope and peace for which the city is revered.

Approximately 34,000 Christians live in Bethlehem today, making-up one-fifth of the city's population and life is not easy. There are young people in Bethlehem who have never prayed in the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. To enter the city, you have to pass through military checkpoints. People wait patiently in line for their permits to be checked. These are the people fortunate enough to get permits to travel to Jerusalem – for many, that trip remains a dream.

This Christmas, let us keep the people of Bethlehem in our prayers. Perhaps light a candle for them or remember them before you sit down to share your Christmas meal.

**May the joy and peace of Christ be with you
this Christmas and throughout the New Year**

*Fr Dave, Fr de Malleray, Fr Mawdsley, Fr Austin
Deacons Mike B, David, Michael, Tony
and Seminarian Thomas*

NEW YEARS EVE - GRAND GALA ST BENEDICTS PARISH CENTRE

Saturday 31 December

NATALIE JAXX - Fantastic Vocalist

DJ Pete 'C'

Fantastic Buffet

Refreshments & BAR 7 pm - 1 am

Tickets £8.00

(avail. from Steve 633920)



A WINTER WALK & LUNCH

St Benedict's Ladies Group will be meeting on the 7 January 2017 at the Walton Hall Cafe for a Winter Walk at 10.00 am, followed by lunch at the Walton Arms pub (*optional*).



LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who will be married this week:

St Oswald's Natalie Smith & Andrew Bellis
Catherine Whitlow & Andrew Unsworth

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's Paul Vernon, Brenda Snelson, Jean Molphy, Beryl Campbell, Anne Hill, Susan Keating, Alan Brown, Ann Wilson, Miriam Lawton, Bill Hampson, Marney Hampson, Patrick Cullen, Kitty Dolley, Peter Milner

St Mary's Geoff Barlow, Peppina Vella, Mary Wright, Luciano Bartolo, Harrison Cruikshank (aged 9)

St Oswald's Susan Disley, Mary Massey, Maureen Holt, Catherine Carne, Sarah Boardman, James Keenan, Michael Donlan, Fr Charles Canning

Other Parishes Ged O'Connor, Daniel Davies, Nadine Davies, John Heywood (aged 9)

A CHRISTMAS TABLE PRAYER

Loving God, on this Christmas Day we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share, and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and our friends, all who are lonely, sick or away from home. We pray that our departed loved ones may now sit at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

If you would like to add a parishioner to the prayer list, please check with them first and then email Fr Dave on frdave@rcaolp.co.uk or give him a note of their name and phone number. Many thanks.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Nativity of the Lord

Weekdays – Octave of the Nativity

Divine Office – Psalter Week 1

Monday Act 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59

Mt 10: 17-22

Tuesday 1 Jn 1: 1-4

Jn 20: 2-8

Wednesday 1 Jn 1: 5-2: 2

Mt 2: 13-18

Thursday Col 1: 24-29

Lk 22: 24-30

Friday Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14

Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23

Saturday 1 Jn 2: 18-21

Jn 1: 1-18

Sunday Num 6: 22-27

Gal 4: 4-7

Lk 2: 16-21

POPE FRANCIS TWEET

“I express my solidarity with migrants around the world and thank all those who help them: welcoming others means welcoming God in person!”

18 December

ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

18 Dec. Winner:

No. 21 Alex Michael

Pay your subscription today, to be entered for today's prize £100!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

(ST BENEDICT'S)

Thank you to those who kindly donated at total of £90.00 towards the cost of the Christmas Flowers. One donor requested for the flowers to be in memory of loved ones who have died.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

For items to be included in the parish Newsletter, please ensure the office receives them by

Wednesday
Tel. 6302127

ST OSWALD'S PARISH CENTRE

The Week Ahead

Sunday 9.00 pm Quiz – Concert Room

Monday 2.00 pm Sequence Dancing

7.30 pm Line Dancing

Wednesday 8.00 pm Bingo

Contact Lynne Tel. 812266 for bookings

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH CENTRE

The Week Ahead

Sunday 8.30 pm Cabaret Night

Monday No Rainbows Group

7.45 pm Bingo

Wednesday No Drama Group

Thursday No Line Dancing

Saturday 7 pm - 1 am New Years Grand Gala Evening

Contact Steve on Tel. 633920 after 7pm for bookings

2nd Collection Today: (St Benedict's & St Oswald's): DEC's Yemen Emergency Appeal

Parish Finance – Thank you so much for your offerings on Sunday 18 December

ST BENEDICT'S £469.06 (£125.10 Gift Aid), £15.00 YMCA (late entries)

ST MARY'S £841.61 (£273.00 Gift Aid + £269.15 Weekday)

ST OSWALD'S £706.67 (£443.37 Gift Aid), £6.50 Animate, £3.00 LAMP, £4.00 APF World Missions, £9.30 Home Missions