

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



Archdiocese of Liverpool

## Newsletter

Sunday 1 January 2017  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Our Benedictine Heritage

Parish Priest: Fr Dave Heywood

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

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Personal: [frdave@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto: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 1 - 8 January 2017

	ST BENEDICT'S Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE	ST OSWALD'S Padgate Lane, Warrington WA1 3LB
<b>Sunday 1 January</b> <i>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i> New Year's Day World Day of Peace	(Sat) 11.15 pm New Year's Eve Vigil Mass Colin Sykes 10.30 am Mass The Brindle Family	(Sat) 6.00 pm Vigil Mass <i>Thanksgiving (St Martin de Porres)</i> 8.30 am Mass <i>The Parishioners &amp; Anne Williams</i> 3.30 pm Polish Mass
<b>Monday 2 January</b> <i>St Basil the Great &amp; St Gregory Nazianzen</i>		<b>No Prayer Group</b> <i>(Resumes 9 January)</i>
<b>Tuesday 3 January</b>	12.15 pm Mass Peter Dwane	9.30 am Mass Successful Operation
<b>Wednesday 4 January</b>	7.00 pm Mass of Thanksgiving Oksana McDowall	
<b>Thursday 5 January</b>		9.30 am Mass John O'Neill (Anniv) 7.30 pm Novena
<b>Friday 6 January</b>	12.15 pm Mass Thomas Bradley 6.45 pm Meditation	
<b>Saturday 7 January</b>		10.00 - 11.00 am Exposition 6.00 pm Vigil Mass Harry & Winnie Roe
<b>Sunday 8 January</b> <i>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</i>	10.30 am Mass The Parishioners & Nellie Pidgeon	8.30 am Mass Special Intention (Dr Francis) 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: [stmarysandstbenedictswarrington.co.uk](http://stmarysandstbenedictswarrington.co.uk)  
St Mary's: [www.stmaryswarrington.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswarrington.org.uk)



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

Telephone: 01925 635664 Website: [www.stmaryswarrington.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswarrington.org.uk)

Served by the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter

Rector: Fr de Malleray FSSP [malleray@fssp.org](mailto:malleray@fssp.org) Assistant: Fr Mawdsley FSSP [james.mawdsley@fssp.org](mailto:james.mawdsley@fssp.org)

Seminarian: Thomas FSSP [tosullivan@olgseminary.org](mailto:tosullivan@olgseminary.org)

### LATIN MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM (with translations)

<b>Holy Mass</b> <i>Sunday</i> 11.00 am & 6.00 pm <i>Monday to Saturday</i> 12.10 pm	<b>Confessions</b> <i>Everyday</i> 30 minutes before Mass <i>Saturday</i> 10.00 – 11.45 am	<b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b> <i>Saturday</i> 10.00 – 12.00 noon	<b>Holy Rosary</b> <i>Sunday</i> 5.30 pm <i>Monday to Saturday</i> 11.30 am
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### THE FEAST OF CHRISTMAS

Thank you to everyone who came along to celebrate the great feast of Christmas last weekend, and to the many people who helped with the liturgies. In particular, may I thank the Deacons, the Sacristans, the Musicians and Singers, the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, the Collectors and Greeters, and all those who prepared the churches - arranging the beautiful flowers, assembling the Cribs and the Christmas Trees, and the teams of cleaners who keep the churches looking so clean and welcoming.

May I also thank you for your cards and gifts, and for your kind words of encouragement and support. My two feline friends, Frances and Blaise, would also like to thank you for thinking of them - their new toys have distracted them from clawing the wallpaper for a little while!

May God bless us all with his peaceful presence as we begin this New Year together. *Fr Dave*

### PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Holy God,  
as we enter this new year,  
we thank you for your presence with us  
in all the years of our lives.

We have known joy, and also sorrow,  
success and failure,  
and through it all, you have been with us  
- the companion of all our journeys.

Much of life is fleeting  
and so we thank you for things that endure:  
the love of faithful friends,  
wisdom gained from experience,  
the reliability of nature,  
and your steadfast love.

We thank you for this New Year which awaits us.  
Take us by the hand and lead us on.  
Amen.



### CRIB OFFERINGS

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

### ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers are invited to renew their commitment at Mass next weekend. 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.

### A WINTER WALK & LUNCH

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

### POPE'S APPEAL FOR THE UKRAINE

The Apostolic Nuncio wishes to thank the congregations of the Liverpool Archdiocese for their contribution to the Pope's appeal for the Ukraine. A total of £23,145.14 was sent from the parishes of the Archdiocese.

### 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 a variety of people, Scripture and Catechism quotations, questions for discussion and times of prayerful reflection. *Full details next week.*

### WARRINGTON ANIMAL WELFARE

Looking for a new challenge in 2017? Why not come and volunteer for WAW? We are looking to recruit some new volunteers and are holding a recruitment drop in event on Saturday 14 January, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon at The Gallery Café, Bank Quay House (Sankey Street, Warrington WA1 1NN - opposite Bank Park, across from the Golden Gates). We need volunteers in the following areas:

- Fundraising, events & supporting campaigns
- Centre assistant - cats / rabbits
- Rabbit/Small Furry assistant
- Kennel assistant & dog walking
- Home-checking (full training given)
- Centre maintenance - gardening, small DIY jobs
- Driving animals to appointments

## POPE FRANCIS' CHRISTMAS HOMILY



“The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men” (Tit 2:11). The words of the Apostle Paul reveal the mystery of this holy night: the grace of God has appeared, his gift is free; in the Child given unto us the love of God is made visible.

It is a night of glory, that glory proclaimed by the angels in Bethlehem and also by us today all over the world. It is a night of joy, because from this day forth, and for all times, the infinite and eternal God is God with us: he is not far off, we need not search for him in the heavens or in mystical notions; he is close, he is been made man and will never distance himself from our humanity, which he has made his own. It is a night of light: that light, prophesied by Isaiah (cf. 9:1), which would illumine those who walk in darkness, has appeared and enveloped the shepherds of Bethlehem (cf. Lk 2:9).

The shepherds simply discover that “unto us a child is born” (Is 9:5) and they understand that all this glory, all this joy, all this light converges to one single point, that sign which the angel indicated to them: “you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (Lk 2:12). This is the enduring sign to find Jesus. Not just then, but also today. If we want to celebrate Christmas authentically, we need to contemplate this sign: the fragile simplicity of a small newborn, the meekness of where he lies, the tender affection of the swaddling clothes. God is there.

With this sign the Gospel reveals a paradox: it speaks of the emperor, the governor, the mighty of those times, but God does not make himself present there; he does not appear in the grand hall of a royal palace, but in the poverty of a stable; not in pomp and show, but in the simplicity of life; not in power, but in a smallness which surprises. In order to discover him, we need to go there, where he is: we need to bow down, humble ourselves, make ourselves small. The Child who is born challenges us: he calls us to leave behind fleeting illusions and go to the essence, to renounce our insatiable claims, to abandon our endless dissatisfaction and sadness for something we will never have. It will help us to leave these things behind in order to rediscover in the simplicity of the God-child, peace, joy and the meaning of life.

Let us allow the Child in the manger to challenge us, but let us also allow ourselves to be challenged by the children of today’s world, who are not lying in a cot caressed with the affection of a mother and father, but rather suffer the squalid “mangers that devour dignity”: hiding underground to escape bombardment, on the pavements of a large city, at the bottom of a boat overladen with immigrants.

Let us allow ourselves to be challenged by the children who are not allowed to be born, by those who cry because no one satiates their hunger, by those who do not have weapons in their hands, but rather weapons.

The mystery of Christmas, which is light and joy, questions and unsettles us, because it is at once both a mystery of hope and of sadness. It bears within itself the taste of sadness, inasmuch as love is not received, and life discarded. This happened to Joseph and Mary, who found the doors closed, and placed Jesus in a manger, “because there was no place for them in the inn” (v. 7). Jesus was born rejected by some and regarded by many others with indifference. Today also the same indifference can exist, when Christmas becomes a feast where the protagonists are ourselves, rather than Jesus; when the lights of commerce cast the light of God into the shadows; when we are concerned for gifts but cold towards those who are marginalized.

Yet Christmas has essentially a flavour of hope because, notwithstanding the darker aspects of our lives, God’s light shines out. His gentle light does not make us fear; God who is in love with us, draws us to himself with his tenderness, born poor and fragile among us, as one of us. He is born in Bethlehem, which means “house of bread”. In this way he seems to tell us that he is born as bread for us; he enters life to give us his life; he comes into our world to give us his love. He does not come to devour or to command but to nourish and to serve. Thus there is a direct thread joining the manger and the cross, where Jesus will become bread that is broken: it is the direct thread of love which is given and which saves us, which brings light to our lives, and peace to our hearts.

The shepherds grasped this in that night. They were among the marginalized of those times. But no one is marginalized in the sight of God and it was precisely they who were invited to the Nativity. Those who felt sure of themselves, self-sufficient, were at home with their possessions; the shepherds instead “went with haste” (cf. Lk 2:16). Let us allow ourselves also to be challenged and convened tonight by Jesus. Let us go to him with trust, from that area in us we feel to be marginalized, from our own limitations. Let us touch the tenderness which saves. Let us draw close to God who draws close to us, let us pause to look upon the crib, and imagine the birth of Jesus: light, peace, utmost poverty, and rejection. Let us enter into the real Nativity with the shepherds, taking to Jesus all that we are, our alienation, our unhealed wounds. Then, in Jesus we will enjoy the flavour of the true spirit of Christmas: the beauty of being loved by God. With Mary and Joseph we pause before the manger, before Jesus who is born as bread for my life.

Contemplating his humble and infinite love, let us say to him: thank you, thank you because you have done all this for me.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God  
 Weekdays – Christmas Week 2  
 Divine Office – Psalter Week 2

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1 Jn 2: 22-28</b>
	<b>Jn 1: 19-28</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Jn 2: 29– 3: 6</b>
	<b>Jn 1: 29-34</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 Jn 3: 7-10</b>
	<b>Jn 1: 35-42</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Jn 3: 11-21</b>
	<b>Jn 1: 43-51</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Jn 3: 11-21</b>
	<b>Mk 1: 7-11</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1 Jn 5: 14-21</b>
	<b>Jn 2: 1-11</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Is 60: 1-6</b>
	<b>Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6</b>
	<b>Mt 2: 1-12</b>

### LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

#### 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, John Heywood (aged 9)

#### Those who have died recently, especially:

*St Benedict's* Gillian Margaret Hankey, Amy Dutton  
*St Mary's* Maureen McAuley  
*St Oswald's* Nadine Davies



*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](mailto:frdave@rcaolp.co.uk) or give him a note of their name and phone number. Many thanks.*

### PRAYER FOR WORLD DAY OF PEACE

O Lord our God,  
 in your mercy and kindness,  
 no thought of ours is left unnoticed,  
 no desire or concern ignored.

You have proven that blessings abound  
 when we fall on our knees in prayer,  
 and so we turn to you in our hour of need.  
 Surrounded by violence  
 and cries for justice,  
 we hear your voice telling us  
 what is required...  
 "Only to do justice and to love goodness,  
 and to walk humbly with your God"  
 (Micah 6:8).

Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn,  
 may be merciful to others.

Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism  
 so that we may seek peace and justice  
 in our communities.

Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only  
 to the rhythm of your holy will.  
 Flood our path with your light  
 as we walk humbly toward a future  
 filled with encounter and unity.

Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts,  
 for only by the prompting of your grace  
 can we progress toward virtue.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

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### POPE FRANCIS TWEET

"God, who is in love with us,  
 draws us to himself with his  
 tenderness, by being born  
 poor and frail in our midst,  
 as one of us."

*28 December 2016*

### ST BENEDICT'S 200 CLUB

**25 Dec. £100 Winner:**

**To be confirmed next week**  
*Subscriptions now due*

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

For items to be included in the parish Newsletter, please ensure the Parish Office receives them by **Wednesday** please (Tel. 6302127). Many thanks.

### ST OSWALD'S PARISH CENTRE

#### The Week Ahead

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.00 pm</b>	Quiz – Concert Room
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	Sequence Dancing
	<b>7.30 pm</b>	Line Dancing
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>	Bingo

Contact Lynne Tel. 812266 for bookings

### ST BENEDICT'S PARISH CENTRE

#### The Week Ahead

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.30 pm</b>	Cabaret Night
<b>Monday</b>		No Rainbows Group
	<b>7.45 pm</b>	Bingo
<b>Wednesday</b>		No Drama Group
<b>Thursday</b>		No Line Dancing

Contact Steve on Tel. 633920 after 7pm for bookings

### Parish Finance – Thank you so much for your offerings on Sunday 25 December

ST BENEDICT'S *To be confirmed next week*

ST MARY'S *To be confirmed next week*

ST OSWALD'S £1372.59 Special Collection for Yemen £152.95

