

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Public Worship in our Churches

As you may have heard, the Catholic Church in England & Wales has suspended all public acts of worship in our churches from the evening of Friday 20 March until further notice. This decision has been made in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and will be reviewed regularly.

Although we won't be able to celebrate Mass publicly, our churches - St Benedict's and St Oswald's - will be open for private prayer. Opening times will be listed on the front page of the parish newsletter and the parish website.

The parish newsletter will continue to be published each week on the parish website and copies will be available in church. The parish website (www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk) will be updated daily and will be the main source of news and spiritual resources for the time being.

At this time, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, Churches Together in England have issued a call to prayer in the light of the pandemic. This Sunday, 22 March, at 7.00 pm, we are invited to **light a candle of hope** and place it in the window of our homes as a symbol of Jesus, the light of the world.

Our God is close to us, he always hears us and will never leave us. Let us put our trust in him.

God bless you.

Fr Dave

**God our Father,
each person is precious to you.
You are the giver of life.
Have mercy on us and protect us at this time,
as the Coronavirus threatens health and life.
You are an ever-present helper in time of trouble.
Watch over those who are suffering,
give strength to those who are aiding the sick
and give courage to all in this time of anxiety.
We ask this of you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**