

THE CATHOLIC PASTORAL PARTNERSHIP OF
BIDDULPH, GOLDENHILL, KIDSGROVE & PACKMOOR
UNDER THE PATRONAGE AND PROTECTION OF OUR LADY OF GRACE

SUNDAY BULLETIN

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

On this last Sunday of the Church's year we always celebrate the summary of all that we celebrate throughout the year, in every feast, and every day: that Jesus Christ is King—King of the Universe, but King of each one of us too.

On Thursday this week, I attended the Archdiocesan Council of Priests. The Council is made up of representatives of the clergy of the Diocese who meet twice a year to consider matters which require decisions, and to advise His Grace the Archbishop. I was there to complete the final stage of the consultation concerning the merging of our three parishes into one, and the canonical closure of St John's church. Having completed this final stage, a draft decree will be presented by the Chancellor to the

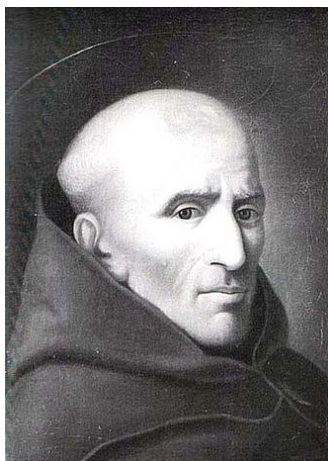
Archbishop. Once he issues the decrees, there is a space of ten working days, after which time they come into effect.

As you know, the new Parish name will be "Our Lady of Grace Parish, Kidsgrove, Biddulph and Goldenhill". I will then petition the Holy See so that they can specify the date on which we celebrate our new patronal feast, in addition to the individual church patrons. When I was first drawn to the title of Our Lady of Grace when I first arrived in the parishes, I didn't realise the full significance of the title. The original shrine of Our Lady of Grace was in Ipswich before the Reformation, and the shrine there was a place for great pilgrimages (second only in England to Walsingham), and even royal weddings.

At the destruction of all the Marian shrines in England, at the orders of Thomas Cromwell, all the statues of Our Lady were supposed to be taken to London where they were burnt. The statue of Our Lady of Grace of Ipswich somehow evaded this disgrace, and managed to find its way to Italy, to the town of Nettuno near Rome, where the statue remains to this day. There the Basilica of Our Lady of Grace also contains the casket of the body of St Maria Goretti. What a destination for a future pilgrimage for our parish that would be!

Today's bulletin is only for one week. The full two week bulletin returns next week for the beginning of Advent and the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Leonard of Port Maurice
1676–1751

Although destined to become a doctor, Leonard felt the call to be a Franciscan. As a priest he was sent to his hometown. After four years, he began to preach missions around Italy, which he interspersed with times of spiritual renewal. St Alphonsus

called him the 'great missionary of the 18th century'. He would spend up to a month in any place on mission, and drew many people through preaching and hearing confessions. Wherever he went there were great conversions. He spread devotion to the Sacred Heart, the Blessed Sacrament and the Immaculate Conception.

CHURCHES

Biddulph English Martyrs' Church, Church Road, Biddulph, ST8 6NE

Goldenhill St Joseph's Church, High Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 5RD

Kidsgrove St John the Evangelist's Church, The Avenue, Kidsgrove, ST7 1AE

Packmoor St Patrick's Church, Mellor Street, Packmoor, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 4SN

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Julian C Green
St Joseph's Presbytery
715 High Street
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Parish Secretary

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OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri
9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs
9am to 1pm.

Safeguarding

The Partnership of Parishes operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are:

Biddulph & Packmoor: Julie Shufflebotham & Lorraine Connell (sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk) **Goldenhill:** Jo Kirkham (sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk) **Kidsgrove:** Denise Hewitt (sg.stjtc.kidsgrove@rcaob.org.uk)
Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Parish Website

www.partnershipparishes.org
The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity no. 234216

LITURGY & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) St Joseph's Sat 12.30pm; Sun 10.30am English Martyrs' Sun 8.30am St Patrick's Sat 5pm	
Saturday 25th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Int Proscovia's family
Sunday 26th CHRIST THE KING	9.00am	11.00am 5.00pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass Reception into church	People of the Parishes Terry & Patricia Chappell Terry Phillips RIP
Monday 27th Feria		10.00am 6.00pm		Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Terry Phillips RIP November List
Tuesday 28th Feria	9.15am		2.15pm	Holy Mass Holy Rosary	November List
Wednesday 29th Feria		6.00pm		Holy Mass	November List
Thursday 30th St Andrew	12noon	9.30am 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St John's school) Holy Mass Heart to Heart	People of the Parishes November List
Friday 1st St Edmund Campion		6.00pm		Holy Mass	Michael Taylor
Saturday 2nd Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 3rd First Sunday of Advent	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Kathryn Hart Betty Leahy

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Terry Phillips. Reception into church on Sunday 26th November at 5pm. Requiem Mass on Monday 27th at 10am followed by burial at Tunstall cemetery.

Requiescat in pace.

Mini-Christmas Fayre English Martyrs' will be having a mini-Christmas Fayre at church, in the meeting room and foyer on Saturday 2nd December from 10am to 12noon. Tombola, raffle, toy and craft stall. All proceeds to parish funds. Please come and support your parish with this lovely social and fundraising event.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

There have been no requests for Sanctuary Lamp dedications for this week or next week. There are some requests over Christmas, but other than that there aren't many. To dedicate a lamp in any of our churches, please place your donation (minimum £5 which covers the cost of the lamp) in an envelope writing the intention and preferred church on the envelope and place in the collection at Mass.

Year of Prayer There was a small but eager group which got together to support the idea of a working group to animate the Year of Prayer. Although few, they came up with some great ideas to make this Year of Prayer a great time of renewal in prayer for us. Next Sunday's bulletin will contain the proposals and an outline for how we will keep the

Year. There will also be a list of the Mass times for Christmas.

Walsingham Pilgrimage The Walsingham Association are organising a three-day pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham from Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd March 2024. The cost for the pilgrimage together with en suite accommodation is £354, and in budget accommodation is £297. For more information and bookings please contact Mary Shirley on mary-roseshirley@gmail.com

Carol Singing at Royal Stoke If you are willing to join a choir from various churches across North Staffs, to sing carols in the main foyer at Royal Stoke Hospital on Monday 11th December from 6pm to 7.30pm, please let us know in the Parish Office before Monday 4th.