

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



First Sunday in Advent

Today we begin another new 'year of grace' or liturgical year as the Church's calendar comes around to its beginning again, on the First Sunday of Advent. This year is particularly marked by the desire of the Holy Father for us to keep a Year of Prayer in preparation for the great Jubilee Year, which will begin on the First Sunday of next Advent. These 'ordinary' Jubilee Years occur every 25 years, in commemoration of the Incarnation of

Our Blessed Lord. I'm sure that, to many of you, it doesn't seem like 25 years since we celebrated the last Jubilee at the turn of the millennium! A Jubilee Year is a time of particular grace, to renew our faith in the Lord, to receive and to show mercy in abundance, and to focus on the path-way ahead.

You can read about our Parish's efforts to keep the Year of Prayer. It will be on two levels: there will be the things that we do together as a community, in our liturgy and public devotions, and events which encourage the spiritual life; there is then the individual spiritual life of each of us, which is our own personal responsibility. I hope that you will be able to join in as many of the things we do together as a community. However, the most

important thing is the life of prayer that each of us has in relationship with the Lord.

Last week we started something new, which we haven't had for a long while in our churches. I have decided, together with the Principals of the three schools, that we will have regular "school Masses on Sunday". And so Our Lady of Grace school came to English Martyrs' church last week, and helped to lead and participate in the Mass. It was a beautiful occasion, and it was great to have children and families there in good number. This week it is the turn of St Joseph's Academy. St John's will have their first Sunday Mass in the new year. It is good to encourage children and families in this way to participate in the life of our Parish.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl John Nepomuk von Tschiderer 1777-1860

Born in Austria, and educated by Franciscans, he was ordained priest aged 23. He suffered from a stutter throughout his life. After years of ministry, he was chosen to be Bishop of Trent. He was diligent in teaching the Faith. He used his own money to build

and restore 60 churches and presbyteries in his Diocese. His charitable outreach to the poor meant he himself often went without. He founded an institute for the deaf and dumb, and for training seminarians. He personally served the sick in the cholera epidemics, and prevented a bloodbath during and uprising.

CHURCHES

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

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

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
Stoke-on-Trent ST6 5RD
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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)

Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

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 Sun 10.30am English Martyrs' Sun 8.30am St Patrick's Sat 5pm	
Saturday 2nd			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
Monday 4th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Holy Souls
Tuesday 5th St Birinus	9.00am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Michael Cullen, relations & friends
Wednesday 6th St Nicholas					
Thursday 7th St Ambrose		9.30am 6.00pm		Holy Mass (In church) Heart to Heart	Holy Souls
Friday 8th THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION		5.00pm 5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Josie Doherty
Saturday 9th Feria			4.30pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Kenneth Harding
Sunday 10th Second Sunday of Advent	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Bill Adams Denis Culhane
Monday 11th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Malachy Sr, Malachy Jr, Barney & Rose Doherty
Tuesday 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe	9.00am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	George Boden
Wednesday 13th St Lucy		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Angela Quinn
Thursday 14th St John of the Cross	11.00am 12noon	9.30am 6.00pm		Holy Mass (in St John's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass Heart to Heart	People of the Parishes Dan & May Biggane & family
Friday 15th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	Terry Phillips
Saturday 16th Feria			4.30pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Lydia Davis
Sunday 17th Third Sunday of Advent <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> <i>O Sapientia</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Barbara & George Connell, Karol Grolik Int Bernadette McGough

Advent Penitential Service There will be a joint Penitential Service for the northern parishes of the Deanery (our parishes, Tunstall, Burslem and Norton) at St Joseph's Goldenhill on Thursday 21st December at 6.30pm. There will be priests hearing confessions, as well as Eucharistic Adoration, and seasonal reflections.

Community Christmas Tree Once again, this year, the Goldenhill & Sandyford Community Christmas Tree is going to be sited next to St Joseph's church. Thanks to our local Councillor, Dr Chandra Kanneganti, the local ward budget contributes the tree, and we contribute the costs of lighting. It really brightens the area up, and is quite striking, especially at night. The great 'switch on' will be on Thursday 7th December, the eve of the Immaculate Conception, at 5.30pm. It will be great to see parishioners for this!

Foodbank Appeal Biddulph Foodbank at English Martyrs' are collecting seasonal food parcels to add to everyone's food parcels during December to add a bit of Christmas cheer! Items such as mince pies, Christmas puddings, tins or cartons of ready-made custard, chocolates, biscuits, multi-packs of crisps and bottles of pop will be used to top up our usual food parcels. Please bring them to any of our churches, in a bag marked Food Bank Christmas goods. Thanks for your continued support!

Christmas Mini Fayre Thanks to everyone for supporting the English Martyrs' mini-fayre. All raffle winners will be contacted directly as soon as possible. We will be able to announce proceeds next week!

Christmas Bottle Stall There is going to be a fundraising bottle stall at St Joseph's at Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent. Please bring donations of small bottles of soft drink or larger bottles of alcoholic drinks to church before then. All proceeds to parish funds.

Christmas Cribs We will set up the Christmas crib in each church after the Saturday/Sunday Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent (16th/17th

December). All hands on deck, please!

Parish Pilgrimage in 2025? The Jubilee year in 2025 is a good opportunity to go on pilgrimage as a parish. The obvious destination for a pilgrimage in a Jubilee Year is Rome. It would also be good to include the shrine of Our Lady of Grace at Nettuno, and some other shrines nearby. As arranging pilgrimages takes some effort, we need to know in advance the level of support. So please let Fr Julian know if you are interested in such a pilgrimage.

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. Priority booking for members of the Association is now open. Places will be available to non-members from 14th October. 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 maryroseshirley@gmail.com It is urgent to let Mary know straightaway, as we need to make decisions about going ahead with the pilgrimage this week.

Kenelm Youth Trust Thanks to everyone who donated to last week's second collection for the Diocesan Youth Trust. The total donations for the Trust were

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Please come and join one of our Care Home Christmas services over the next couple of weeks.

The next service at Maple Tree Court, Gloucester Rd, is on Monday 11th December, 2.30pm to 3pm.

The next prayer service for the residents at Lawton Rise Goldenhill is on Wednesday 20th December at 11am.

Please come and join us and help the singing. Meet outside before the service to gain access.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. These, then, are the Mass times for our churches for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas. Both days are separate Holy Days of Obligation.

Sat 23rd December

5.30pm St Patrick's—Vigil Mass of Advent IV

Sun 24th December

9am English Martyrs' — Mass of Advent IV

11am St Joseph's—Mass of Advent IV

4.30pm St Joseph's—Vigil Mass of Christmas

6.30pm English Martyrs' — Night Mass of Christmas

Mon 25th December

9am St Patrick's—Mass of the Dawn

11am St Joseph's—Mass of the Day

Tues 26th December

10.30am English Martyrs' — St Stephen's Day Mass

Weds 27th December

10.30am St Joseph's—St John's Day Mass

HOSPITALITY



Our Welcoming Space, where you can just drop in for tea, coffee and a chat, is running on Tuesdays from 10am to

12noon. It is at St Joseph's Academy, Moberley Road. Everyone is welcome to come and drop in! It is however not running this week, because it's school half term.

Our "Warm Space" drop in session at English Martyrs' is up and running once again on Wednesdays through the winter, from 11am to 2pm for tea, coffee, soup, sandwiches and dessert. Everybody is welcome.

THE YEAR OF PRAYER 2024: PREPARING FOR THE JUBILEE

'I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great "symphony" of prayer.

Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him.'

(Pope Francis)

Today we begin the Year of Prayer, which will run until the beginning of Advent next year, when the Great Jubilee Year of 2025 will begin, which commemorates the Incarnation of Our Lord. His Grace, the Archbishop, invites us to participate in this Year:

"Pope Francis desires to see the Our Father become the "life programme" of every disciple, and so I invite our Diocesan family to prepare for the Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope", through a deeper devotion to prayer in this Year of Prayer! At our recent Bishops' Conference meeting, we resolved to work towards a renewal of our adoration of Jesus Christ and our service of neighbour. I pray that our Lord will guide us to become a more synodal, missionary and prayerful Church, as we approach the Holy Year."

Recently, we had a small meeting of parishioners at which many suggestions were made about how to keep this Year. We will have a new initiative each month, to keep the Year of Prayer going, and to keep it before our minds and hearts throughout the Year. **Our Year of Prayer working group will meet again on Monday 18th December at 7.15pm at St Patrick's. It will be great to see new people there too.**

There are some things which we are going to put in place throughout the Year. The Holy Father wants us to focus on:

- Being in the presence of the Lord: This begins with the Lord's command to go to our own private place, and there to pray to God. This year provides a great opportunity to ensure that prayer has a fundamental and fixed place in our daily lives. In fact, we should notice that a day without prayer is a day half lived!

- Listening to Him: Reading the Word of God is the greatest way of listening to the Lord, and discovering what He has to say to us.
- Adoring Him: We should have more opportunities for prayer together, most especially in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, the eucharistic Presence of Our Blessed Lord with us.

Our Prayer & Life Workshops are a wonderful way in which to go deeper in prayer and the reading of the Word of God. Everyone in the parish is encouraged to sign up for one of our Workshops which will happen through the year.

There will be other prayer initiatives and opportunities to deepen our spiritual lives during the Year too.

Right from the beginning of Advent, we are going to start the following initiatives:

- The Angelus: The Angelus is a simple prayer which reminds us of the Incarnation of Our Lord, the essence of the celebration of the Jubilee Year. By the end of the Year everyone will know the prayer. It will be prayed before each and every Mass starting this week and through to the end of the Jubilee Year.
- Eucharistic Adoration: In addition to our weekly Heart to Heart, which we will promote even more, there will be times of silent Eucharistic Adoration in each church, each week. At St Joseph's on Fridays from 5pm to 6pm; at English Martyrs' on Thursdays from 11am to 12noon; at St Patrick's on Saturdays from 4.30pm to 5.30pm.
- You are invited to join in the Prayer of the Church before each weekday Mass in church, 15 minutes before Holy Mass. The Prayer of the Church focusses on the praying of the psalms and the Word of God, and is the official daily prayer of the Church, prayed by clergy and religious throughout the world, together with many lay people.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of the Church to Sean Michael Stokes, who is to be baptised today at St Joseph's.

And to Darcas Montana Bernadette Doherty, who will be baptised at St Joseph's on Saturday 16th December.

Hospital If you or someone you know needs a priest in hospital, you need to contact the chaplaincy yourself. For Royal Stoke call 01782 676400. It is important to specify you want the Catholic chaplain.

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open at the times advertised on the front of the bulletin.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. Open House is on Monday evenings starting at 6.30pm. No need to book: just turn up.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 3rd Dec:

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis

St Joseph's: Kevin Potts

St Patrick's: McGough family

Week beginning 10th Dec:

English Martyrs':

St Joseph's: John & Mary Leese

St Patrick's: John Martin

To dedicate a lamp, please place min donation of £5 in an envelope with preferred church and intention written on the front, and put into the collection or hand to a steward in church.