

# THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF GRACE KIDSGROVE, BIDDULPH & GOLDENHILL

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2024

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Today, I am writing for the first time as Parish Priest of the new united Parish of Our Lady of Grace. You can see the decree of His Grace the Archbishop on the back page of the bulletin, or in each of our churches. The decree states that the new merged parish is formed, and St John's church formally closed. The decree was issued on 12th December, but only finally becomes active ten working days after it has been published. So that will be on Friday 19th January.

For most people, this will

mean very little by way of change. The three churches remain open, with the same names, and the same Mass times. There will have to be a unification of the bank account, which will mean, in due course, having to renew the standing orders for your weekly offerings to the parish funds.

I am sure that most of you are aware that I had a rather difficult time over the Christmas celebrations. My dear mother, Jean, had a fall on 11th December, and broke her hip and wrist. In spite of a successful operation to repair the damage, mum did not embrace the prospect of long and arduous rehabilitation, at the age of 95, and gave up the will to live if it meant constant care and curtailing her independence, and went into a decline. She passed away on Monday,

New Years' Day, the Solemnity of the Mother of God, having received the Last Sacraments, and preparing well to meet the Lord. I was relieved to be with her throughout the last two days of her life, and held her hand during those last moments.

So I ask you, please, to pray for the repose of her soul, and to pray for me and the rest of the family at this time of loss. I would be really grateful if as many of you as possible could come to the Funeral Mass, to support me, and to make it a wonderful Catholic farewell. It is envisaged that the Requiem Mass will be at the church of Our Lady & St Werburgh, Clayton—mum's parish church—on Friday 19th January at 11.30am. There will also be the reception into church on Thursday evening at 6pm.

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



#### **Bl Edward Waterson** **d. 1594**

Born in London, and brought up in the Church of England, Edward travelled to Turkey with a group of merchants. On his return he stopped off in Rome, and under the influence of Fr Richard Smith was brought into the Catholic Church during his stay at the English College in

1588. He then travelled to the English College in Reims, where he enlisted as a seminarian, and was ordained in 1592. He then travelled to England on the mission. He ministered to Catholics for a year before being arrested. After six months in prison in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, he was hanged drawn and quartered on 7th January 1594.

### 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  
Tel: (01782) 782121  
[fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk)

### Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding  
Tel: (01782) 782121  
[OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk)

**Goldenhill:** Jo Kirkham  
[sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk)

Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240

or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

### Parish Website

[www.partnershipparishes.org](http://www.partnershipparishes.org)

The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity no.

234216

## LITURGY &amp; 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	
<b>Saturday 6th</b>			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Special Int (MW)
<b>Sunday 7th</b> <b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Noel & Maureen Kelleher Kevin Potts
<b>Monday 8th</b> <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	4.00pm	5.45pm 6.00pm		Reception into church <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Tom Nixon RIP Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday 9th</b> Feria	1.00pm			Requiem Mass <i>No Rosary today</i>	Tom Nixon RIP
<b>Wednesday 10th</b> Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Ken Holmes & family
<b>Thursday 11th</b> Feria	11.00am 12noon	9.30am 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass Heart to Heart	People of the Parishes Vincent Davis
<b>Friday 12th</b> St Aelred of Rievaulx		5.00pm 5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 13th</b> St Hilary of Poitiers			4.30pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
<b>Sunday 14th</b> <b>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Doreen McGiff Arthur Holmes & family
<b>Monday 15th</b> Feria	4.00pm	5.45pm 6.00pm		Reception into church <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Mary Jervis RIP Bishop David McGough
<b>Tuesday 16th</b> Feria	1.15pm			Requiem Mass <i>No Rosary today</i>	Mary Jervis RIP
<b>Wednesday 17th</b> St Antony, Abbot		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Winifred Maughan
<b>Thursday 18th</b> Feria	11.00am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	People of the Parishes John & Bridget Biggane & family
<b>Friday 19th</b> <b>St Wulstan</b>					
<b>Saturday 20th</b> St Sebastian			5.30pm	<i>No Eucharistic Adoration today</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Denis & Bridget Culhane
<b>Sunday 21st</b> <b>Third Sunday of Ordinary Time</b> <i>Word of God Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	George Boden Michael Joseph Dymnicki

**Christmas Offering** Fr Julian would like to thank you for your generous support of his ministry as Parish Priest through the Christmas Offering.

**Tuesday Rosary** There will be no Rosary at St Patrick's for the next two weeks because it clashes with the funerals of parishioners. It will return on Tuesday 23rd January at 2.15pm.

**Filipino Community Mass** The next Mass for the Filipino community in North Staffs will be on Sunday 4th February at 3pm at Holy Trinity Church, Newcastle.

**Pause for Prayer Resource** Pause for Prayer is a new series of videos for the Year of Prayer to encourage us to press the pause button on our busy lives and to be present to God. The monthly video reflection is hosted by Fr Toby Duckworth, who serves in the parishes of St Dunstan, Kings Heath and St Jude, Maypole. Fr Toby is also the newly appointed Diocesan Spirituality Contact. Together with Paul Northam, Diocesan Co-ordinator for the Jubilee Year 2025 'Pilgrims of Hope' from the Diocesan Office for Mission, and James Trewby, Columban Justice and Peace Education Worker, the trio will produce regular episodes focused on teaching, testimony and intentions. You can watch the first of the Pause for Prayer videos at [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/pause-for-prayer-monthly-reflections-launched](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/pause-for-prayer-monthly-reflections-launched)

**Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** The annual diocesan pilgrimage will take place from Monday 27 May to Saturday 1 June 2024 under the leadership of His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishop David Evans. For booking enquiries and to find out more about what the pilgrimage entails visit [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/join-us-for-the-diocesan-lourdes-pilgrimage-2024](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/join-us-for-the-diocesan-lourdes-pilgrimage-2024)

**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.

## OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Please come and join us at Lawton Rise Goldenhill on Wednesday 17th December at 11am for our next care home service. Please come and join us and help the singing. Meet outside before the service to gain access.

### HOSPITALITY

Our Parish hospitality is up and running again now the New Year is here.

The Warm Space at English Martyrs' returns on Wednesday 10th January 11am to 2pm. Come and get refreshments or lunch and meet with others.

The Welcoming Space at St Joseph's Goldenhill returns on Tuesday 9th January 10am to 12noon. Drop into St Joseph's Academy and meet with friends and have some light refreshments.

### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

#### *Week beginning 7th January*

English Martyrs': Mrs Jean Green  
St Joseph's: Leese & Potts family  
St Patrick's: John Martin

#### *Week beginning 14th January:*

English Martyrs':  
St Joseph's: Keenan & Moss family  
St Patrick's: Mrs Jean Green

### 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. Next Open House on Monday 8th January from 6.30pm.

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Funerals

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Tom Nixon. He will be received into English Martyrs' church on Monday 8th January at 4pm. Requiem Mass on Tuesday 9th January at 1pm followed by interment at Biddulph cemetery.

And also for the soul of Mary Jervis. She will be received into English Martyrs' church on Monday 15th January at 4pm. Requiem Mass on Tuesday 16th January at 1.15pm followed by committal at Carmountside Crematorium.

## MARY'S MEALS

We are still running our annual Appeal on behalf of Mary's Meals, which is our charity for crib offerings. This year, the donations made to Mary's Meals over the Christmas period, up to 22nd January 2024, will be match funded up to a limit of £1million. So please be generous to our appeal, so that the charity will be able to help double the number of children. And, of course, you can help further, if you are a UK income tax payer, by Gift Aiding your donation! Gift Aid forms are available next to the collecting basket at the crib. Please fill them in carefully with all the details required.

Every year, Mary's Meals let us know how much it costs, on average, to feed a child for a year across all the places in the developing world where the Mary's Meals programme is operating. This year the cost to provide a child with a meal each day for a year, in a place of education is... £19.15

That is a considerable increase on last year's amount, as charities' costs risen like everyone else's. If you can give that amount (or preferably £20 to save having lots of change!) then we are most grateful. If you can't afford that amount, then please give what you can, as every penny benefits the children. Don't forget that Mary's Meals keeps expanding. At the moment the number of children receiving Mary's Meals each day is 2,429,182.

The absolutely final date for donations is Sunday 14th January, as we need to send our donations on 15th to benefit from matched funding.

Thanks for your support!

DECREE OF HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM  
**B E R N A R D**

ARCHBISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM AND METROPOLITAN

By the grace of God and favour of the Apostolic See

HAVING CONSULTED the Council of Priests

AND CONSIDERED the sacramental needs of the faithful in St Joseph, Goldenhill, English Martyrs, Biddulph (including St Patrick, Packmoor) and St John, Kidsgrove, within the Archdiocese of Birmingham,

I HEREBY DECREE that the above parishes are modified by way of an extinctive union and are now joined as one,

AND THAT THE PARISH IS

**OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, KIDSGROVE, BIDDULPH AND GOLDENHILL**

WITH EACH of the Churches retaining its original dedication,

THE JUST CAUSES for this union being: (1) future viability; (2) the organic development from clustering; (3) the lack of priests; (4) the cohesion of parishioners; (5) the enhancement of collaboration and (6) the better use of resources,

I FURTHER DECREE that St John's Church, Kidsgrove be closed and relegated to profane usage,

THE GRAVE CAUSES for this closure being: (1) the cessation of worship in the Church; (2) the decrease in attendance; (3) the increasing age of parishioners; (4) the insufficient income to support the Church; (5) the proximity of the Church to an unoccupied presbytery and school; (6) the poor state of maintenance of the Church; (7) the future alienation of whole site and (8) the proximity of other Churches,

THIS DECREE is to be published in the Churches of the former parishes of St Joseph, Goldenhill, English Martyrs, Biddulph (including St Patrick, Packmoor) and St John, Kidsgrove, within the Archdiocese of Birmingham, by suitable means with the understanding that anyone who wishes to have recourse against it must first lodge a petition to me in writing within ten business days from the time this DECREE was lawfully notified as provided by canon 1734 §§1-2.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Archbishop's House on the 12 December 2023



✠ Bernard Longley  
Archbishop of Birmingham



Reverend Raymond Corbett JCL  
Diocesan Chancellor