

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY 2024

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Today is the Sunday of the Word of God. Pope Francis instituted this day in the calendar so that we could better appreciate the place of the Bible in the Church's life, and more personally in each of our lives. Whenever we talk about the Faith being brought to a particular place, we speak of the 'evangelisation' of that place and people. That literally means the 'Gospeling' of a place.

In our area of the Midlands, we can thank St

Chad for being a very effective evangelist of the people. Since he came to the Midlands, the Christian faith has continued to be believed and practised. In the picture above, you can see a photo of the St Chad's Gospel, an illuminated Gospel which dates from the eighth century, to the time when Christianity was still new to this part of England.

This year, the Sunday of the Word of God also falls within the Octave (or

Week) of Prayer for Christian Unity. Although we may understand the Word of God in the Bible differently from other Christians, the actual text, to the most part, unites us. We Catholics need to learn to study and pray the Word of God in Scripture, and we can take inspiration in the way that many non-Catholic Christians do so.

I would like to thank everyone from the Parish who came to support me for the funeral of my dear mother, Jean. I ask you to continue to pray for her, and for the family. I shall be going to the winter session of the Society of St John Vianney today, in Ars. I am grateful for the days away after the funeral. I am grateful to Fr Kevin Stokes who is a great support to taking on supply in the parish to allow me to pace myself during this time.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Ulfrid d. 1028

St Ulfrid was an Englishman, who felt called by God to leave his own country and go first to Germany and then to Sweden to preach the Christian faith there. As a bishop in Sweden, he was very successful in his mission, and made many converts. In his zeal for the destruction of all

devilish cults, he not only preached against the old pagan religion, but also attacked and destroyed an old statue of the pagan god Thor. This provoked the anger of the pagans who rushed at him and killed him on the spot. They took his dismembered body and threw it into a marsh. He is venerated as a martyr on 18th January.

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
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Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding
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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 (on request)	
Saturday 20th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Denis & Bridget Culhane
Sunday 21st Third Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	George Boden Michael Joseph Dymnicki
Monday 22nd Feria		11.00am		Funeral Service	Marina Coates RIP
Tuesday 23rd Feria	11.00am		2.15pm	Requiem Mass Holy Rosary	Maire Theresa Bloor RIP
Wednesday 24th St Francis de Sales					
Thursday 25th Conversion of St Paul					
Friday 26th Ss Timothy & Titus					
Saturday 27th St Angela Merici			4.30pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Mary Jervis
Sunday 28th Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary & Mick Clifford Connor Young
Monday 29th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Frank Smithson
Tuesday 30th Feria	8.30am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Vincent & Lydia Davis
Wednesday 31st St John Bosco		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	John Brian Keane
Thursday 1st Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Jean Green (Month's mind)
Friday 2nd The Presentation of the Lord		5.00pm 5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Simon Doherty & Dec of Maughan family
Saturday 3rd St Werburgh			4.30pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Donald & Jean Green
Sunday 4th Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	John & Ellen Clifford & family Veronica Williams

Mary's Meals Thank you to you all for your generosity to the crib appeal for Mary's Meals once again this year. You raised £4945 for the charity, of which £2220 was gift aided. That means that, with the matched funding included, our support is worth £10,445 to the charity. That is a huge amount of money, and represents 544 children who will be fed in a place of education during the year ahead, thanks to our support.

Sacrament of Confirmation The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Monday 11th March (St Joseph's) and Tuesday 12th March (English Martyrs') this year. If there is anyone who has not been confirmed and who would like to be confirmed (minimum age is 10), then you need to contact Fr Julian or the Parish Office as soon as possible to arrange for sacramental preparation.

First Holy Communion Preparation for First Holy Communion will begin after the February half term, for children who have made their First Confession. Preparation will be in our schools once a week after school hours. If any child hasn't yet made First Confession and wants First Holy Communion this year, please contact Fr Julian or the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Eucharistic Adoration At English Martyrs', Eucharistic Adoration will be on Tuesdays from 8.30am in the Lady Chapel with Lauds (Morning Prayer) at 9am. This replaces the Thursday Adoration before Mass.

Bottle raffle Thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas fundraiser at St Joseph's, the bottle stall. It raised £250 for parish funds.

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.

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

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. There are a few more places left, but hurry! For more information and bookings please contact Mary Shirley on maryroseshirley@gmail.com

Vocations Weekend for Women The FCJ (Faithful Companions of Jesus) sisters are organising a weekend for young women (20s and 30s) who want to explore the call that God has for them in life, with reflection on Religious Life. It takes place in Liverpool, from 16th to 18th February 2024. Come for the weekend, or just for the Saturday. If you are interested please contact Sr Lynne fcj on fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org

Parish Youth Leader Training The Bethsaida course is your gateway to a rewarding voluntary role working with young people in your parish. This free course is taking place at Our Lady and St Werburgh's, Clayton on Saturday 24th Feb from 2-6pm, and Saturday 2nd March from 2-6pm, and with an online session at 7pm on Wednesday 28th February from home. All are welcome whether you are interested in working with young people in your parish in the future or this is something you are already part of. The certificated course is run by the Kenelm Youth Trust with sessions that are informative, relaxed, interactive and friendly. To register or find out more email: anna.howard@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

LGBT Catholics Do you, or anyone close to you, identify as LGBTQ+? Archbishop Bernard wishes to listen

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Please come and join us at Lawton Rise Goldenhill on Wednesday 21st February 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' is back on Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm. Come and get refreshments or lunch and meet with others.

The Welcoming Space at St Joseph's Goldenhill is on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon. Drop into St Joseph's Academy and meet with friends and have some light refreshments.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, takes place at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday 30th January from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome!

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. For Haywood Hospital please contact Fr George at Sacred Heart, Tunstall. If in doubt contact the ward staff.

to your experience within the Church in the Archdiocese of Birmingham and in the spirit of the Synodal Pathway. You are invited, along with your family and friends to a meeting facilitated by Mgr Mark Crisp and his team to share experiences and discuss how the Archdiocese can continue to develop its pastoral response to anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+. This meeting is open to those who are aged 18 and over. The meeting will take place from 6.30pm to 8.00pm on Friday 26th January at St Teresa's Church, Trent Vale, ST4 6SR.

THE BIBLE IN THE CATECHISM

On this Sunday of the Word of God, it is good to read what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says about Scripture, the Bible. This is a point where the Catholic Church has a slightly different understanding than the Protestant churches:

105 God is the author of Sacred Scripture. "The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit."

"For Holy Mother Church, relying on the faith of the apostolic age, accepts as sacred and canonical the books of the Old and the New Testaments, whole and entire, with all their parts, on the grounds that, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author, and have been handed on as such to the Church herself."

106 God inspired the human authors of the sacred books. "To compose the sacred books, God chose certain men who, all the while he employed them in this task, made full use of their own faculties and powers so that, though he acted in them and by them, it was as true authors that they consigned to writing whatever he wanted written, and no more."

107 The inspired books teach the truth. "Since therefore all that the inspired authors or sacred writers affirm should be regarded as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, we must acknowledge that the books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures."

108 Still, the Christian faith is not a "religion of the book". Christianity is the religion of the "Word" of God, "not a written and mute word, but incarnate and living". If the Scriptures are not to remain a dead letter, Christ, the eternal Word of the living God, must, through the Holy Spirit, "open (our) minds to understand the Scriptures."

109 In Sacred Scripture, God speaks to man in a human way. To interpret Scripture correctly, the reader must be attentive to what the human authors truly wanted to affirm, and to what God wanted to reveal to us by their words.

110 In order to discover the sacred authors' intention, the reader must take into account the conditions of their time and culture, the literary genres in use at that time, and the modes of feeling, speaking and narrating then current. "For the fact is that truth is differently presented and expressed in the various types of historical writing, in prophetic and poetical texts, and in other forms of literary expression."

111 But since Sacred Scripture is inspired, there is another and no less important principle of correct interpretation, without which Scripture would remain a dead letter. "Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written."

PARISH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds 14th Feb—Ash Wednesday

Weds 28th Feb, 6pm—First Confessions at St Joseph's

Mon 11th Mar, 6.30pm—Confirmation at St Joseph's

Tues 12th Mar, 6.30pm—Confirmation at English Martyrs'

Mon 18th Mar, 6.30pm—St Patrick's Day Mass & buffet at St Patrick's

Tues 19th Mar, 9.30am—St Joseph's Day Mass with the school in St Joseph's church with refreshments

Thurs 28th Mar to Sun 31st Mar—The Easter Triduum

Sat 4th May—12noon English Martyrs' Feast Day Mass & Lunch

Sun 5th May—3.30pm May Procession at St Patrick's Packmoor (with the Walsingham Association)

Thurs 9th May—Ascension Day

Sun 9th June—11am First Holy Communion Mass (St John's children) at St Joseph's

Sun 23rd June—9am First Holy Communion Mass at English Martyrs'

Sun 30th June—11am First Holy Communion Mass (St Joseph's children) at St Joseph's

Sun 21st July—Parish BBQ at St Joseph's Presbytery

There will be further events organised during the coming months, but these dates are given for advance notice.

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Maire Theresa Bloor. Requiem Mass will be celebrated for the response of her soul of Tuesday 23rd January at 11am at English Martyrs'.

And also for the soul of Marina Coates. Her funeral service will be on Monday 22nd January at 11am at St Joseph's.

Requiescant in pace.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 21st January

English Martyrs': Mrs Jean Green
St Joseph's: Kath & Brian Wakefield
St Patrick's: John Martin

Week beginning 28th January:

English Martyrs':
St Joseph's: Connor Young
St Patrick's: Mrs Jean Green

If you would like to dedicate a lamp in one of our churches for any intention, please place donation (min £5) in an envelope

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. There is no Open House this Monday. Next Open House is on Monday 29th January from 6.30pm. No need to book. Just attend!