

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2024

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

As you know, the New Year has brought about our new Parish of Our Lady of Grace, making our previous three parishes into one parish. Almost as soon as we have become a new parish, we have the Feast of our Patroness, Our Lady of Grace, come about to be celebrated for the first time as a Solemnity. The actual feast day is on Wednesday, 6th February. However, the Feast of the Patron of a Parish can always be moved to the Sunday to make it easier to celebrate if the Sunday is in Ordinary Time. So, we will celebrate the Solemnity, at least this year, on the following Sunday: next week! I don't have any great plans for the first celebration of our Patronal Feast Day. However, the Feast Day



does coincide very happily with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which is also on the 11th February. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is, each year, the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, so I propose to make prayer for the sick the main focus of our celebration next Sunday. As

well as the Masses dedicated to Our Lady in each church, we will also have a Healing Service in the afternoon, at St Patrick's. This will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, Anointing of the Sick (for those who qualify), Eucharistic Healing Procession and Benediction. I hope many parishioners will be able to come. It could be an opportunity for those who cannot easily get to Mass because of illness to come too. Please see the notice on page 3 of the bulletin for details.

Lent is coming very soon too. Now is the time to be thinking about what your personal Lenten resolutions will be, remembering that we are called to focus particularly on prayer in this Year of Prayer.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl Odoric of Pordenone 1280-1331

Odoric was a Franciscan friar and missionary from Northern Italy. As a missionary, he travelled through India, Sumatra, Java and China, spending three years in present day Beijing. After ten years of mission, he returned home and recorded his great

journey and his experiences. His great journey became a source of knowledge of the Far East, which was still hardly known in the West, as well as an appeal to those with a missionary spirit to obey their calling. He was seeking new recruits when he fell ill and died in his home town of Friuli. Many miracles were attributed to him

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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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 3rd			5.30pm	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
Monday 5th St Agatha		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Special Int (FH)
Tuesday 6th St Paul Miki & Comps	8.30am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Lauds</i> Mass of Our Lady of Grace Holy Rosary	Catherine Johnson
Wednesday 7th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Bernard Cunningham
Thursday 8th St Josephine Bakhita	12noon	9.30am 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St John's school) Holy Mass Heart to Heart	People of the Parishes Eileen Marrow
Friday 9th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Holy Souls
Saturday 10th St Scholastica			4.45pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of the Feast	John Martin
Sunday 11th SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF GRACE <i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i>	9.00am	11.00am	4.00pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Healing Service	Mary Jervis Paul David Dymnicki
Monday 12th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Maureen & Michael Meaney
Tuesday 13th Feria	8.30am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	John & Paddy Clifford & sisters
Wednesday 14th ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Day of Fasting & Abstinence</i>	9.15am	6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Jean Green Paul McGough
Thursday 15th Feria	11.30am 12noon	6.00pm		Stations of the Cross Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Mary Child
Friday 16th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Jean Green
Saturday 17th Feria			5.30pm	<i>No Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Julius & Iris Kaminskas
Sunday 18th First Sunday of Lent	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Tom Nixon Winifred Maughan

Healing Service Next Sunday, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Grace, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and the World Day of Prayer for the sick, we are inviting you to come for a Healing Service at St Patrick's Packmoor at 4pm. If you are sick yourself, or if you want to come on behalf of a sick person who cannot come, or if you have sick people to pray for, or if you just want to join in general in prayer for our sick parishioners, then please come along. The Service will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Eucharistic Healing Procession, Intercession for the Sick and Anointing, followed by Benediction. Those who are eligible are invited to receive anointing for the Sacrament of the Sick. To be anointed, you need to have a diagnosis of a serious illness (it's not for coughs and colds, nor just because you feel like it would be nice!) Also those who are of advanced years, if they are experiencing the frailty of older age. To be anointed you need to get a little chit-ty from Fr Julian. When asking please let him know—in general terms—why you need to be anointed. There will be light refreshments after the service.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies A conversation arose recently when people from all our churches happened to be together. And the idea of a Ladies Group for the women of the parish to get together regularly for an informal time of prayer and social get together came about. And so the idea of Our Lady of Grace Ladies came about. And so there will be an initial get together, at English Martyrs' Bidulph, on Monday 12th February at 7pm. It is for all women from across the new parish.

Ash Wednesday This year Ash Wednesday falls in half term, so there won't be the usual Masses and services to accommodate all the children. There will, however, be two Masses with distribution of ashes. Please see page 2. Don't forget that Ash Wednesday is a Day of Fasting (only one meal—for those 18 to 59) and Abstinence (no meat—for everyone over 14).

Stations of the Cross There will be Stations of the Cross from the beginning of Lent as follows: Tuesdays at 2.15pm at St Patrick's (replacing the usual Rosary), Thursdays at 11.30am at English Martyrs', and on Fridays at 6.30pm at St Joseph's. Come and join in this beautiful form of prayer!

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.

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

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

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 27th February from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome!

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

Trip to London Specifically for those who live in the Staffs Moorlands parliamentary constituency, there is an invitation from Karen Bradley MP to go on a coach trip to Westminster. These are organised from time to time to have an opportunity to tour Parliament, and a chance to take in some of the sights of London. The next trip is on Thursday 14th March. Leaves from Robin Hood Travel on Macclesfield Road in Leek at 9am, and leaving London no later than 7pm to arrive back in Leek at 11.30pm. The cost is £34.50. Please call 01538 382421 to confirm your place.

ENGLISH HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF GRACE

Before King John awarded Ipswich its first royal charter in 1200, the history of Ipswich is one which the local people can rightly be proud of. For, it is not known by many today that Ipswich once had a magnificent shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It was a widely renowned place of pilgrimage where yearly thousands of pilgrims paid honour and veneration. Towards the end of the 11th Century many towns and cities in England had a Marian shrine and most were named after one of her virtues, thus the Ipswich shrine was called, Our Lady of GRACE. The Shrine became extremely popular as it was a building of such excellent architecture and reports of many miracles took place there. From the early Medieval Ages to the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Marian shrine at Ipswich was second in the country only to that of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk which was dedicated earlier in 1061. Uncertainty remains as to the actual date as to when the original shrine was first built. However, comparing the dates to other shrines built around England at the same time, the date of 1152 seems very plausible. But we do have a precise date of when the original shrine moved to the site of the previous All Saints chapel, thanks to the story of miracles happening which reached the Pope on 29th March 1327. The contribution of monies from Pope John XXII to complete the new Our Lady of Grace shrine and its new chapel, is one of the earliest of such grants to a Marian shrine in Europe. Working with these calculations of the dates, the completion of the newer shrine and chapel takes us to around the end of the 14th century.



A replica of the original statue of Our Lady of Grace has been placed in Lady Lane in Ipswich

There was a wedding in Ipswich in 1297 of the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King Edward I to the Count of Holland. An account mentions that the wedding took place in 'the King's Chapel'. Disputes between modern historians continue as to whether the venue was at the Priory of SS Peter and Paul, Ipswich or at the Our Lady of Grace shrine. Since we do not know of which religious site had a 'King's chapel', we are not certain where the wedding took place. However, surely the royal family would have attended the shrine particularly the newlyweds, as pilgrims often asked in prayer that the Virgin Mary would bless their marriage bed and make it fertile (as would have been the plea by Catherine of Aragon during her visit to the shrine in 1517, in order to give Henry VIII a son to carry on the Tudor dynasty). In 1502, King Henry VII's wife, Elizabeth of York donated half of a golden angel coin (3s 4d) to the shrine. Other visitors to the shrine included Cardinal Thomas Wolsey and Abbot John Reeve of the Priory at (Beodericworth), Bury St Edmunds. The statue of Our Lady of Grace may have survived the demolishing of the shrine during the English Reformation.



Basilica of Our Lady of Grace & St Maria Goretti in Nettuno

On the west coast of Italy, near to Rome, lies the little fishing town of Nettuno. There is a statue there known since 1550 as 'the English Lady' from the Ipswich shrine. It is today kept in the town's largest church, the Basilica. The statue is commonly known as 'Nostra Signora delle Grazie' – Our Lady of Grace. Stories of a shipwreck in 1550, that the image had been washed ashore and had been a figurehead of a ship – all versions tell of English sailors who had sailed from Ipswich and that the image had been saved from Thomas Cromwell's burning of idols. The wooden statue at Nettuno matches the description of the image at Ipswich, and carbon dating has dated the statue to the thirteenth century, and the style of the statue is English.

Nettuno is also the town of St Maria Goretti, the virgin martyr, who gave up her life to save her purity. She was a great devotee of Our Lady of Grace, and her tomb and shrine are in the same church of Our Lady of Grace in Nettuno.

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Eric Ball. Requiem Mass will be at English Martyrs' on Monday 26th February at 11.30am followed by committal at Carmountside.

Requiescat in pace

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 4th February

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis

St Joseph's: Private Intention

St Patrick's: John Martin

Week beginning 11th February

English Martyrs': Jean Green

St Joseph's: Robert Dray

St Patrick's: Phillip Cooke

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!