

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

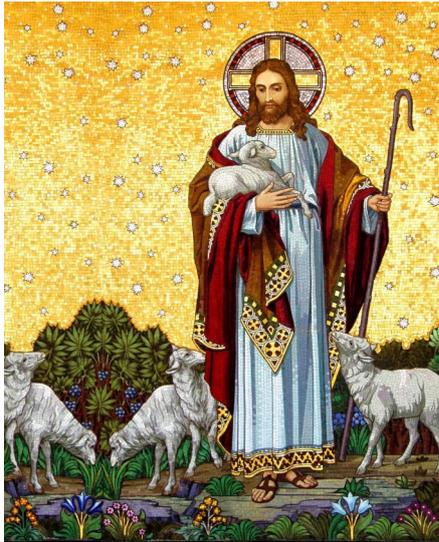
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Today we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, the international day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life. The Lord is our Shepherd, and yet he calls other men to associate themselves with him so that they can become shepherds in his name. Our priests are shepherds or pastors after the Heart of Christ himself. In his name they tend the flock, through preaching the Word, through celebrating the Mass and the other sacraments, and leading the people in the name of Christ.

The Church is hierarchical. That means it is led by priests. We need priests. If there is no priest, there is no Eucharist. Without the Eucharist, there is no



Church. So, please pray today for more vocations to the priesthood and also to the religious life. Pray that those who have been called will be courageous to swim against the tide of modern society to accept their calling.

Next Sunday, we welcome Fr Stephen Kariuki, who is a missionary priest to the parish. He will be appeal-

ing on behalf of the foreign missions. Please be generous. While he is celebrating the Masses in our Parish, I will be in Walsingham again! This time with the Prayer Guides of Prayer & Life Workshops from around the country for the annual retreat. After that I am going to meet up with Fr Eloi, whom you know from his time with us eleven years ago. He

will be coming over to England with two other French priests of the SJMV for a few days of fraternity. We will be staying with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph in the New Forest. Do please make a date for the Feast of the English Martyrs' Mass on 4th May and the Parish May Procession at Packmoor on 5th May. See you there!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Andrew Bobola
1591-1657

Known as the apostle of Lithuania and a patron of Poland. He joined the Jesuits and showed himself to be proud, impatient and stubborn. Knowing he needed conversion, he turned to Our Lady and to Eucharistic Adoration daily. He managed to master his faults and was ordained

a priest. He was effective at reconciling Christians to communion with Rome. He was eventually captured by Cossack soldiers and cruelly butchered when he refused to renounce the Catholic Faith. He was buried and his body lost, but he appeared to the Rector of the church, and his relics were found, his body incorrupt.

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

Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding
Tel: (01782) 782121
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)

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

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) St Joseph's Sun before Mass; Friday 5.30 to 5.45pm English Martyrs' Sun before Mass St Patrick's Sat before Mass	
Saturday 20th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Bill & Mary Whitehouse
Sunday 21st Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>Good Shepherd Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Marie Reilly John & Mary Moran & family
Monday 22nd Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Thanksgiving (Conrad bday)
Tuesday 23rd ST GEORGE	9.15am		2.15pm	Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Cullen family & friends
Wednesday 24th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Reg Teece
Thursday 25th St Mark, Evangelist	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Mary Child
Friday 26th Feria		9.15am 9.30am		<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Stella Hull
Saturday 27th Feria			4.45pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Jean Harding
Sunday 28th Fifth Sunday of Easter	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Joe & Helena Flatley Helen Hewitt
Monday 29th St Catherine of Siena					
Tuesday 30th St Pius V			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
Wednesday 1st St Joseph the Worker					
Thursday 2nd St Athanasius					
Friday 3rd St Philip & St James		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Dec of Child family
Saturday 4th ENGLISH MARTYRS	11.30am		4.45pm 5.30pm	Holy Mass <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Mary Jervis People of the Parishes
Sunday 5th Sixth Sunday of Easter	9.00am	11.00am	3.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass May Procession & Benediction	Michael Flatley, Kathleen & David Pooley Irene Aylward

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

God our Father, From eternity You appointed Your only begotten Son to be the High Priest of the human race. Pour forth, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit upon our families, that vocations to the priesthood may be multiplied.

Lord Jesus, give us holy priests: to offer up the sacrifice of the Mass; To lead the little ones to You; to strengthen the faith of believers; To preach the Gospel to all peoples; to bring forgiveness to sinners; To feed souls the Bread of Life; To comfort the suffering & dying, and To spread Your Kingdom in our midst.

Mary, Mother of our High Priest, pray for us and obtain for us an increase of holy priests. Amen

Mission Appeal Next Sunday we welcome Fr Stephen Kariuki of the St Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers) who will preach this year's Mission Appeal. There will be a second collection for the missions after Mass.

Feast of the English Martyrs On Saturday 4th May, you are invited to come to the celebration of the Feast of the English Martyrs, at English Martyrs' church Biddulph. There will be Mass at 11.30am, followed by a bring and share buffet lunch in the meeting room. We look forward to seeing you there!

May Procession This year sees the return of the May Procession at St Patrick's Packmoor on Sunday 5th May at 3.30pm. We are going to be joined by members of the Walsingham Association for the first May Procession since 2019! After the crowning of the statue and the procession and Benediction, there will be a bring and share afternoon tea. See you there!

Rosary We will have the prayer of the Holy Rosary 20 minutes before Mass on the Sundays of May:
4th / 5th May — Joyful
11th / 12th May — Luminous
18th / 19th May — Sorrowful
25th / 26th May — Glorious
Please volunteer to lead the Rosary on one of the Sundays.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Ladies' group for all the women of the parish meets again on Monday 13th May at 7pm at St Joseph's Goldenhill. New ladies always welcome!

Men's Prayer Circle Some of the men who were part of the Men's Prayer & Life Workshop met together on Saturday to look at continuing the momentum of the group. And so all men who have done the PLW are invited to come once a month to a Prayer Circle. It will include reading and sharing the Word, a brief talk and prayer, as well as a social time. A bit like a workshop but shorter. It's a great opportunity to be supported in prayer and the Christian life. The first Saturday meeting will be on 18th May at 9am at St Joseph's.

Filipino Community Mass The next Mass for the North Staffs Filipino community will be at Holy Trinity, Newcastle on Sunday 5th May at 3pm.

Talks on St John of the Cross The Carmelite priest, Fr Matt Blake OCD, will be visiting St Wulstan's parish, and giving a series of talks on St John of the Cross, on the weekend of Friday 10th to Sunday 12th May. The talks will be on Friday at 7pm, and then on Saturday at 10am and 3pm, and finally on Sunday at 3pm. All the talks will take place in St Wulstan's school, Wolstanton. Don't miss this opportunity to hear an inspirational and expert presentation.

Deanery Evening Talk On Friday 17th May, there will be a talk on the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution 'Sacrosanctum Concilium', on the Liturgy. The effect of this document of the Council was probably the most noticeable, changing the way Mass was celebrated in our parishes. The talk will be given by Mgr Timothy Menezes, the Dean of St Chad's Cathedral, and will focus on the key principles of the document, as well as how it helps to show us how to prepare for Mass through private prayer. The talk takes place at Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Newcastle beginning at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee available. All welcome.

Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians Sunday 5th May is the Day of

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Come and join us at **Lawton Rise Goldenhill** on Wednesday 15th May 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



Why not come and join us for a cuppa, a bite to eat and a chat with others?

The Welcoming Place 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 April from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome!

Prayer for Eastern Christians—meaning the Christians who live in the ancient heart of the Church, the Middle East. These Churches have been decimated by conflict and persecution by the Muslim majority. And yet some Christians remain in these ancient Churches. Please remember to pray for them on their Day of Prayer

Mass for Marriage

THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM
OFFICE for MISSION

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

An invitation to married couples, those celebrating a milestone anniversary and those preparing to marry this year.

Celebrant: Archbishop Bernard Longley

Saturday 4th May 2024, 12 noon
at St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
followed by light refreshments

To let us know you are coming (by 21st April) visit:
www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass



PARISH GIVING

This Sunday we are beginning a drive to increase our giving and to make sure that everyone who gives by Standing Order is contributing to the 'Our Lady of Grace Parish' bank account (the same as the old St Joseph's account).

- If you currently have a Standing Order for St John's or English Martyrs' we need you to make a new Standing Order. There is an envelope available for you at church this weekend. Please follow the instructions to set up the new Standing Order with your bank, and don't forget to cancel the present one!
- We are asking everyone to consider their current level of giving. How long is it since you revised how much you give? Don't forget that inflation affects the parish as much as households. Could you revise your giving to be even more generous? You can contact your bank directly to increase the amount of your standing order, if you give in that way. You can also give through the card reader in church. Envelopes are also available to those who prefer to give in cash.
- Please consider making a standing order, to give directly from your bank account to ours on a weekly or monthly basis. The banks really don't like receiving large amounts of cash from us. It helps us greatly if you can give in this way. Also don't forget that weekly offertory, second collections and votive candles can be paid on the card reader.
- If you pay income tax (on wages, self-employment or private pension) then you can Gift Aid your giving. It is then worth 25 per cent more to the parish. If you don't already Gift Aid please take a form. To Gift Aid your donations you need a Standing Order or numbered envelopes.
- If you no longer pay Income Tax, please contact Teresa in the parish office to stop your Gift Aid. You can still give by Standing Order however.

ST JOHN'S UPDATE

The Coptic Orthodox community have already begun the celebration of the liturgy on Saturday mornings at St John's (or St Mary & St John's as they now call it). I attended the second of the Saturday liturgies, where Fr Bishoy was celebrant and an English Coptic priest, Fr Peter Farrington, was preaching. It is good to see the church being used for the celebration of Christian liturgy once again. The sound of the chants was somewhat different, and the liturgy looks rather different too. After the celebration of the liturgy, everyone went into the presbytery to eat together. All the food was vegetarian, as the Coptic church is still in Lent (together with most of the Eastern churches). There were about thirty to forty people at the liturgy, and they are so pleased to have a place in North Staffordshire. They will be celebrating the liturgy each Saturday morning at St John's.



Fr Bishoy has issued an invitation to anyone from our parish to go and join the Coptic community in Stockport for their Easter Vigil on Saturday 4th May beginning at 8pm and for the food afterwards. I will be going myself. If you would like to go, then please see me and I can give you details.

Fr Julian

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Anthony McGinley who is being baptised at St Joseph's on Sunday.

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.

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is closed from Wednesday to Friday in Holy Week, and on Easter Monday. It is open at the other 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 will be available on Monday 22nd April at 6.30pm. No Open House on 29th April nor 6th May.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 21st April

English Martyrs':

St Joseph's: John & Mary Leese

St Patrick's: Jean & Don Green

Week beginning 28th April

English Martyrs':

St Joseph's: Leese & Potts family

St Patrick's: John Martin

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