

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 14TH JULY 2024

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Where is the summer? It's the question everyone is asking. Where are the long warm days which our memory tells us were what summers used to be like? Apart from a very few days, we have had cold and wet. It is with this in mind that it seems impossible to organise a BBQ this month, as we had intended. The idea was to get everyone together from our new united parish for a social event. We used to do this before COVID, and this year seemed like the right time. However, together with the inclement weather, my own situation with all the sadnesses of the past year, of illness and bereavement, have not put me in a mind to celebrate.

One of the ideas when we used to have the BBQs in July (before COVID), was that it was linked to my important personal cele-

brations of my ordination anniversary and birthday, both of which fall in July. It will be strange this year, as I will be keeping these dates without my mum being there. She was the one person who always remembered these important dates, and so it's on these days that I particularly feel the sense of loss.

Anyway, we have much to look forward to in the autumn, when things get back into motion again. This year we will be setting up our Parish Pastoral Forum. This will have two aims: to work together for the pastoral aim of our parish and to bring us together socially to celebrate and support one another, raising a few funds for the parish. When we launch the Forum we will have a social evening indoors, and hopefully get people together from across the

whole parish then. So, let's get planning for that!

As the end of the school year arrives, and most of the parish activities pause, this will be the last large two-week bulletin until the autumn. Over August we will just have a single sheet each week, as we have in the past. Over the past few weeks we have celebrated the First Holy Communion of the children from our schools. We still have one or two of those First Communions to go. We also welcomed the Archbishop to St Margaret Ward Academy. You can see these events and the photos on the bulletin this week. This week there will take place the Ordination of the two new Auxiliary Bishops for our Diocese. We have yet to hear which of them will come to our area, but please pray for our Bishops Elect.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Leander of Seville 534-600

St Leander lived in Visigothic Spain during a time of fierce battles between Arian heretics and Catholics. Leander was the brother of the better known St Isidore. Entering a monastery as a young man, he was chosen to be the Bishop of Seville. He established a Cathedral

school, which acted as a seminary for future priests. Isidore himself attended this school, tutored by his elder brother. Leander helped to root out the Arian heresy (which denies the divinity of Christ) in Spain. One of his converts was the prince and future martyr, St Hermengild. He presided over the Third Council of Toledo.

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

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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: Julie Shufflebotham
(sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk)

Goldenhill: Jo Kirkham
(sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk)

Packmoor: Lorraine Connell
(sg.stpatricks.packmoor@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 before Mass English Martyrs' Sun before Mass St Patrick's Sat before Mass <i>At other times on request</i>	
Saturday 13th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 14th Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Michael Cullen Ken Holmes & family
Monday 15th St Bonaventure		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Joan Wareham
Tuesday 16th Our Lady of Mount Carmel	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Mary Cornelius
Wednesday 17th St Kenelm		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Jean Harding
Thursday 18th Feria	12noon	9.30am		End of Term Mass (in Church) Holy Mass	People of the Parish Mary Child
Friday 19th Feria <i>Votive of Precious Blood</i>		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Joan Sadler
Saturday 20th Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Peter Convey
Sunday 21st Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Jervis Stan Grandfield
Monday 22nd St Mary Magdalene		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Bernard Cunningham
Tuesday 23rd St Bridget of Sweden	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Mary Jervis
Wednesday 24th St Charbel Mahkluf		9.15am 9.30am		<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Donald & Jean Green, Mandy Buxton & Lorraine Brooks
Thursday 25th St James, Apostle	12noon			Holy Mass	Mary Child
Friday 26th Sts Joachim & Anne		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Michael & Maureen Meaney
Saturday 27th Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Pam Heathcote
Sunday 28th Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parish Frank & Betty Smithson

July: Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus

“Dear Jesus, moved by an impulse of love, and with purity of intention, I wish to cover my humble labours with Your merits and bathe them in the supernatural gold of Your Precious Blood. I desire to consecrate my life to the saving of souls and the extension of Your glory, and I beg the Heavenly Father for as many souls as You shed drops of Blood during Your Passion.”— Sr. Josefa Menendez

Café on the Steps As usual, this year, there will be the Open Café organised by the churches in Biddulph, as part of the Biddulph Festival. There will be coffee, tea and cake on each of the Saturdays of July, from 10am to 12noon at Biddulph Town Hall. Everyone is welcome!

Walsingham Association The Association Quiet Day, or day retreat, takes place on Saturday 20th July at Sacred Heart Tunstall in the crypt from 10am to 3.30pm. The day is led by Fr Julian Green. There will be Mass, a talk on Our Lady, a Holy Hour and quiet times of prayer. Non-members welcome, but please let Fr Julian know. Donations.

Feast of St James 25th July is the Feast of St James. It would be good to have any of our former and future pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela come together for the Mass at English Martyrs' at 12noon.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our parish ladies enjoyed meeting together at St Patrick's last week. There will not be a meeting during August. The next meeting will be on Monday 9th September at 7pm at St Joseph's.

Men's Prayer Circle The Circle is for men who have done the Prayer &

Life Workshop. The next meeting is on Saturday 10th August at 9am at the Presbytery.

OLG Parish BBQ Unfortunately, this year the weather is more unpredictable than usual, and the likelihood of rain on any day makes a BBQ difficult to organise. And so the BBQ, which was to have been on 21st July, is cancelled. We will have an indoor social in the autumn to get everyone from our new parish together. Watch this space.

Episcopal Ordination The Ordination of Bishops Elect Timothy Menezes and Richard Walker will take place on Tuesday 16th July at 12noon at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. Due to the limitations of space, attendance at the Ordination is by invitation only. However, you are able to watch the livestream of the Ordination on the website <https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>

Day of Prayer for Grandparents The fourth Sunday of July, the Sunday nearest the celebration of St Joachim & St Anne, the grandparents of Our Lord, has been dedicated as the Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly by the Holy Father. This year, the Pope has chosen, as the

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

We won't be having our Care Home Outreach services during August. They will be back in the autumn term. Thanks to everyone who has taken part this year.

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Place will be on holiday during the school holidays. They

will return in September.

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 July from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome! £3 to attend. There will be no meeting in August.

theme, a verse from the Psalms: "Do not cast me off in my old age" (Ps 71:9). The Pope wants us to pray for the elderly who suffer loneliness. We will have prayers, and a particular blessing for grandparents and the elderly at all the Masses on 27th/28th July. It would be great if grandparents could bring their families to the Mass for the blessing.

ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT TO ST MARGARET WARD ACADEMY



On Thursday 4th July, while the country was going to the polls, our attention, at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, was geared towards welcoming His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley, to celebrate the Mass for the Feast of St Margaret Ward. (The Feast Day is actually in August, but is celebrated in school at the end of the summer term).

The Mass was attended by Year 7 pupils, together with the new prefects from Year 10, and other students from sixth form and musicians and servers from across all the years. A good number of members of staff from the school, and from the primary schools of the Newman Catholic Collegiate, and governors, were also present.

His Grace was very impressed by the welcome he received from the

young people who belong to the 1719 Society—the student leadership body who act as prefects in the school.

The Mass was celebrated in the school hall, and was a beautiful celebration. The musicians were brilliant in leading the singing, and the servers helped the celebration. At the end of the Mass, Mrs Roseanna Snee, retired principal of St Peter's Cobridge, was presented with the *Ubi Caritas* award. The Archbishop also blessed the Stations of the Cross, which had been made by students in the art department. After lunch with guests, the Archbishop made a tour of the school, and was grateful to meet other students and members of staff.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2024



Children from St John's Academy received First Holy Communion at St Joseph's Church on 9th June

During the month of June, children from our Parish received First Holy Communion at three Sunday Masses. Here are their reflections on their First Communion.

"After receiving Jesus for the first time I felt a calmness. I feel special as I know that I have received Jesus and will go on to receive him many times. I know I am part of his family and feel very close to him." (Isla B)

"At first I felt anxious about receiving Jesus as I wanted to do everything right for him. Once I had received communion, I felt happy receiving Jesus for the first time. I feel closer to God as I am taking one more step in my faith journey." (Francesca)

"I felt calm and at peace from receiving Jesus. I now feel an extra closeness to God. I see it as a Holy home with Jesus and I know I am closer to him for life." (Paragon)

"Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion I felt like I was part of God's family and my faith was getting stronger and stronger. When I received the Eucharist I felt spiritual and fulfilled because I had received this special Sacrament." (Charlotte)

"I felt spiritual because I was receiving God into my heart for the first time. When I received the Eucharist for the first time I truly felt part of Jesus's family and full of the Holy Spirit it was a wonderful time." (Amelia)

"It was a very special day and all my family were there to support me. I felt a little scared but excited too! As I received the Eucharist I felt Holy and spiritual. I am excited to go to Mass so that I can receive the Eucharist again." (Chloe)



Children from Our Lady of Grace Academy received First Holy Communion at English Martyrs' Church on 23rd June



Children from St Joseph's Academy received First Holy Communion at St Joseph's Church on 30th June

"Before we received First Holy Communion we all felt a mixture of nervous, worried and excited. We wondered how we would feel after. We knew that we had to be courageous and trust in God. When we received Communion, we found out that it wasn't scary at all. We all felt very happy after. We felt changed and some of us felt different because we have received Jesus is a special, holy way which is different to how we knew Jesus before. We look forward to receiving Communion at Mass now because we are changed every time and this helps to make us better people." (Jocknom & Aiden)

Please remember the First Communion children and their families in your prayers as they continue on the path of Christian initiation.

PARISH REGISTERS

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Gabriella and Grace Brown who are receiving First Holy Communion at English Martyrs' on Sunday 14th July.

Marriage

Congratulations to Rebecca Jasmine Maughan who was married to John Henry Smith at St Joseph's on Saturday 13th July.

And also to Sean & Marianne Conway whose marriage was convalidated and blessed at English Martyrs' on Friday 12th July.

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office 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. It is on Mondays from 6.30pm to 7pm. There is no need to book an appointment. There will be Open House on 15th & 22nd July, the last opportunities before the summer break.

If you wish to check the availability of the Parish Priest or Secretary please phone the Presbytery.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications Week beginning 14th July

English Martyrs': Jean & Don Green
St Joseph's: Howle, Davenport & Crotty family

St Patrick's: Blood Family

Week beginning 21st July

English Martyrs': Mandy Buxton & Lorraine Brooks

St Joseph's: B Chadwick

St Patrick's: Martin family

If you would like to dedicate a lamp in one of our churches for any intention, please place donation (min £5) in an envelope with the intention and preferred church written thereupon.

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.