

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



SUNDAY BULLETIN

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Looking back, I think this year's Christmas celebrations were very beautiful and well supported in our Parish. Thanks once again to everyone who helped with all the tasks required to make this so. Now we are back into Ordinary Time, and life has returned to normal.

As we start this New Year, there are new initiatives in the Parish. As part of their Confirmation preparation the children in the top class in each of our three schools are doing a Prayer & Life Workshop for children each week. I am also giving an adult's workshop near Derby, to which 44 people turned up for the introductory session. We will be offering the PLW for adults in our parish in the near future, so watch out for that!

We also have our first proper meeting of the new

Parish Pastoral Forum on Monday this week, so I hope many parishioners will come and participate in the forum, which is a bit like a parish Council but with the emphasis on the pastoral life of the Parish. Please come along!

As well as this Catholic forum for our united Parish, we are also part of Biddulph Churches Together (nowadays called CTST8). Since its inception, our congregation has been represented by Mrs Tess Hall, who has put a lot of effort into so many projects together with the other Christian churches of Biddulph. Tess has decided to retire from the position of Church representative. It would be good to have a volunteer who would carry on this work of representing us (together with me) at the meetings.

You will see I have put a

notice about votive candles on the bulletin, relating to St Joseph's. However, please read this, because it has important directions for health and safety, so that we can light our votives safely.

Next Sunday is the Sunday of the Word of God. Pope Francis nominated this Sunday as the day on which Catholics can celebrate, but also assess, the role of the Bible, the Word of God, in our lives. It would be great if we could heed the call of the Church to know the Word of God better. Maybe the introduction of the new lectionary at Mass could be an impetus to help to urge us towards this goal.

Please continue to pray for our new catechumens who are preparing for baptism, and also for those preparing to be received into the Church and confirmed.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Wulstan
1008-1095

St Wulstan was born in Warwickshire, and became a monk of Evesham and then Peterborough. After ordination to the priesthood he moved to be a monk at Worcester. He became the treasurer, and then the Prior of the monastery. He was then named as Bishop of Worcester in

1062. After the Norman invasion in 1066, Wulstan showed such competence as Bishop that he was the only Anglo-Saxon Bishop to keep his post. He was responsible for the rebuilding of the Cathedral, but always had a care for the poor and sought to alleviate the harsh treatment of Saxons by the Normans. He was canonised in 1203.

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 Parish of Our Lady of Grace operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan 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.ourladyofgraceparish.org
The Parish is 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; Friday evening at 5pm English Martyrs' Sun before Mass St Patrick's Sat before Mass <i>At other times on request</i>	
Saturday 18th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 19th Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Jervis Jim & Margaret Fallon
Monday 20th St Sebastian		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Frank Smithson
Tuesday 21st St Agnes	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Ellen & Joe Flatley & family
Wednesday 22nd St Vincent		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Jean Green & Mary Jervis
Thursday 23rd Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's School) Holy Mass	People of the Parish Dec of Child family
Friday 24th St Francis de Sales		8.15am		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward)	Holy Souls
Saturday 25th Conversion of St Paul			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Kath & Brian Wakefield
Sunday 26th Third Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Maria Williams & loved ones Michael Joseph Dymnicki
Monday 27th St Angela Merici		9.15am 9.30am		<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Joan & Thomas Wareham
Tuesday 28th St Thomas Aquinas	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Bridget & Adrian Drew & family
Wednesday 29th Feria		11.00am		Requiem Mass	Sheilah Siddall RIP
Thursday 30th Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's School) Holy Mass	Fr Bernard Garrett Mary Child
Friday 31st St John Bosco		12.30pm 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	People of the Parish John Brian Keane
Saturday 1st Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of the Feast	Veronica Williams
Sunday 2nd Feast of the Presentation in the Temple	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Digger & Alan Hopkins Connor Young

Mary's Meals Many thanks to all our parishioners for their generosity in supporting our Christmas crib appeal for Mary's Meals once again this year. The cash amount donated was £4,534, of which £2,080 was Gift Aided, making our effective contribution £5,054. The matched funding was already allocated prior to the end of our appeal, so there is no match funding this year. However, this is a tremendous effort and a wonderful amount of support for our annual Christmas crib charity. It represents 264 children who will be fed each day in a place of education, thanks to our parishioners.

Solemnity of Our Lady of Grace We will be celebrating the Solemn Feast of Our Lady of Grace, our parish patroness, on Sunday 9th February. All the Masses will be of Our Lady. The morning Masses will also be family Masses, to which all families in the school are invited.

Healing Service Our next healing service, with the administration of the Sacrament of the Sick to those who qualify, and intercession for healing and Eucharistic healing for all. It will take place on Sunday 9th February, the Sunday before the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which is world day of prayer for the sick, at St Patrick's church, at 3pm. It would be marvellous if those who cannot normally attend Mass were able to come. Anyone willing to offer lifts to church for the elderly, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at English Martyrs' on Monday, 10th February at 7pm. All ladies welcome, especially new members!

Men's Prayer Circle The Circle is for men who have done the Prayer & Life Workshop. The next meeting is on Saturday 1st February, 9am to 10.30am.

Care Home Service The next service at Lawton Rise Care Home will be on Wednesday 15th February starting at 11am. Everyone welcome to come and join the residents. Please meet outside in good time.

Votive candles at St Joseph's For two reasons, all votive candles have been removed from the votive candle stands. We have noticed that a lot of candles were being lit and not paid for. Also, children were lighting the candles unattended and, therefore, not safely. Please buy the candles as you enter church. Payment can be in cash or on the card reader. 24 hour votives are £1 and the small 2 hour votives are 20p. Please use a taper to light the candles, and do not light one from another, which risks burning and falling hot wax. Children must be supervised. Please place lit candles at the top of the stand so people don't have to reach across lit candles risking burns. Thanks for your care.

Red Mission Boxes Now is the time to bring all your mission boxes to church so that they can be emptied. Please help our volunteers by bringing them to the church at which they were issued. Thank you!

Solemnity of Our Lady of Grace Our Parish's Patronal Feast Day in honour of Our Lady of Grace falls on 7th February each year. So that we can all join in the celebration, we keep the feast on the nearest Sunday. This year it will be on Sunday 9th February. The Masses at English Martyrs' and St Joseph's will be family Masses at which the children and parents from our schools will be encouraged to attend and participate.

Confirmation The Parish's Confirmation Mass takes place on Tuesday 25th March at 7pm, and will be celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes. If anyone has not yet received Confirmation (including children over 10 years old not in one of our Catholic schools), and would like to do so, please contact Fr Julian as soon as possible.

First Holy Communion The First Holy Communion programme will begin after the February half term, for those children in Year 4 and above who have already completed preparation for and have made their First Confession. If your children are not in a Catholic School, and you want them to receive First Holy

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Place meets on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon in the after school club at St Joseph's Catholic Academy on Mobberley Road. We are back up and running now the New Year is here. Come and drop in!

The Welcome Space initiative is now up and running over the autumn and winter at English Martyrs' too. It is on Wednesdays, from 11am to 2pm, there will be tea and coffee, soup, sandwiches and dessert. We are back up and running every Wednesday. Everyone welcome!

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday 28th January from 1.30 to 3.30pm. Everyone welcome! £3 to attend.

Communion then please see Fr Julian at the weekly Open House.

Missals It is now possible to pre-order Weekday and Daily Missals with the new translation of the readings. The Weekday Missal contains the readings for Monday to Saturday. They will cost £55. The Daily Missal contains all the readings for every day, including Sundays, and will cost £70. If you wish to order a copy, please let Fr Julian know, or contact the parish office. The books will be available late April/early May. Sunday missals are available from Fr Julian priced £20. ESV Catholic Bibles are on order, and will be here at the beginning of February.

First Fridays You are invited to participate in our Parish preparation for Consecration to the Sacred Heart by completing the First Friday Devotion for nine months programme is:
3pm Eucharistic Adoration in silence
4.30pm Confessions
5.25pm First Friday Devotions, Vespers and Benediction
6.00pm Holy Mass



The North Staffs Walsingham Association

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2025

Sat 23rd – Mon 25th August
Bank Holiday weekend

This is a great opportunity for you, your family and friends to make a special Jubilee Year pilgrimage to Walsingham in the footsteps of kings, saints, and holy people of times gone by to deepen your faith and reliance on our Lord Jesus Christ.

The pilgrimage includes coach travel, 2 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast in Elmham House and one packed lunch.

A programme of liturgical, devotional and social activities will make a special weekend in Walsingham.

The cost for adults will not exceed £227 (standard room) or £265 (ensuite room).

Special offer for pilgrims under 16: travel, food and accommodation will all be half price!

For more information/ booking details, contact Mary Shirley asap:

07910 605984 or maryroseshirley@gmail.com

If you do not have a standing order in place, it is by far the best way of being able to give to the parish, as it attracts the lowest bank charges. You can set it up by contacting your bank or in online banking. The details of the parish bank account are as follows:

Account Name: Our Lady of Grace Parish

Account Sort Code: 010138

Account Number: 75282135

If you pay personal Income Tax, you can also Gift Aid your donations. Please contact Teresa in the Parish Office. You can also make a donation on your smartphone using this QR code. This can also be done on the parish website.



PARISH PASTORAL FORUM

On Monday evening, 20th January, we will be having the first meeting of the Our Lady of Grace Parish Forum. It is taking place at **St Joseph's Church Goldenhill** at 7pm. Every member of our Parish is welcome to come to the meeting. As well as individual members of the parish, we will have representation of all the groups from the Parish. They will be invited to give a brief account of how their groups are doing. There will be time to open up other matters under Any Other Business.

The agenda is as follows:

- Minutes of the Planning Meeting & Matters arising
- The nomination of the Chair and Secretary
- Fr Julian's address
- Report of the Finance & Buildings committee
- Reports from Parish Groups represented
- Parish 'brochure'
- Ministry to the Sick and Housebound
- Building up our Community in Faith
- Fundraising and social events
- Any Other Business (notified in advance)
- Business suggestions for next meeting(s)
- Setting dates and venues for future meetings

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. If you need a Chaplain at the Haywood, please contact Fr George at Tunstall. For other hospitals, care homes or hospices, please ask the staff. If you have any difficulties, contact the Parish Office.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Aurora Pereira Ferreira who will be baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 19th January.

Catechumenate

We pray for those adults preparing for baptism this Easter, who enter the catechumenate this week: Arthur Ferreira, Ethan Mason and Alex Hackney.

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Sheilah Siddall. Requiem Mass

will be celebrated at St Joseph's on Wednesday 29th January at 11am, followed by committal at Carmountside crematorium.

And also for the souls of Martin Thomas and Valerie Jones, recently departed.

Requiescant in Pace

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open again at the normal times of opening (see front page). It is recommended to phone before coming in person to the office to check Teresa is in.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. It takes place on Saturday mornings from 11am to 12noon. No Open House on 25th January.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 19th January

English Martyrs: Mary Jervis

Week beginning 26th January

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs: Mary Jervis

If you wish to dedicate one of the lamps for a particular intention, the minimum donation is £5