

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



PARISH BULLETIN

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



The Rosary is one of those 'iconic' images which reminds us of our Faith. It represents Catholicism. And many people have a Rosary, give Rosaries as gifts, buy Rosaries at shrines, or display them in their homes and cars. Some people think it is a necklace to be worn. But the Rosary is much more than an icon or symbol of our Catholic Faith. It is truly a lifeline. Or better still, it is like a

rope ladder which Our Lady drops down from heaven, to help us climb up. So often, the Rosary ends out being a charm or a like a piece of jewellery. But the Rosary is dead unless it is picked up and used for prayer. We should easily turn to the Rosary in our daily lives as the prayer which brings us closer to Jesus through Mary. The great mysteries of the life of Jesus are meditated up-

on as we turn to Our Lady to support our prayer with hers.

So my appeal to you this October is to pick up your Rosary and pray it. You have no idea how powerful it is! We say how much we desire peace in the world. Pray the Rosary. We say how much we want our families to have the Faith that we have. Pray the Rosary. We find it difficult to turn from our sins. Pray the Rosary. The Rosary is such an effective tool to bring our spiritual life to the fore, especially if we have neglected it.

This October we have a Rosary chain among our parishioners, where some have promised each day to pray the Rosary. Even if you have not signed up, pray the Rosary and join in this great offering of prayer which is so needed for all our intentions

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Anna Schaeffer
1882-1925

Born of a poor family, Anna dropped out of school aged 14 hoping to join a religious order. Aged 16, she received a vision of the Lord who told her she would have long and painful suffering. She went to work at a laundry. When she was 19 she had an accident, where she slipped

and fell in the boiling water of the washing machine, severely burning her legs. She went through 30 surgical operations, with no success. She bore all her sufferings with patience, and with deep devotion to the Sacred Heart and to the Blessed Mother. She received the stigmata, ecstasies and visions. She finally died of colon cancer.

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
Tel: (01782) 782121
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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) At each church Saturday/Sunday Confessions are available at each church 20 minutes before Mass. St Joseph's Friday 5pm (when there is a 6pm Mass); after Saturday morning Mass	
Saturday 4th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Special Int (Arabella)
Sunday 5th Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Michael Cullen Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Monday 6th St Bruno					
Tuesday 7th Our Lady of the Rosary			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
Wednesday 8th Feria	7.00pm			Holy Rosary	
Thursday 9th St John Henry Newman					
Friday 10th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		Adoration & Vespers Holy Mass	Stan Grandfield
Saturday 11th Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Pat Holmes & family
Sunday 12th Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parish Winefride & Leonard Atherton
Monday 13th St Edward the Confessor		5.45pm 6.00pm		Vespers Holy Mass	Michael & Doreen Pender
Tuesday 14th Feria	9.15am	5.45pm 6.00pm	2.15pm	Liturgy of the Word (in Our Lady of Grace school) Holy Rosary Vespers Holy Mass	Bailey & Plant families
Wednesday 15th St Teresa of Avila		6.30pm		Holy Mass of Thanksgiving for the Newman Catholic Collegiate	Bishop David McGough
Thursday 16th St Margaret Mary		9.30am	12noon	Holy Mass (St John's School) Holy Mass	Special Int (PD) Mary Child
Friday 17th St Ignatius of Antioch		5.00pm 6.00pm		Adoration & Vespers Holy Mass	Michael & Maureen Meaney
Saturday 18th St Luke		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Stephen Holmes & family
Sunday 19th Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Int Mr & Mrs B Edwards Thanksgiving (Ursula K)

Please note On the weekdays 13th to 17th October, English Martyrs' Church will be closed for decoration. Please note the changed Mass times and locations this week on Tuesday and Thursday.

Rosary in October As well as the weekday Rosary groups, we will be praying the Rosary each Sunday in October before each Saturday evening and Sunday morning Mass. 4th/5th Joyful Mysteries 11th/12th Luminous Mysteries 18th/19th Sorrowful Mysteries 25th/26th Glorious Mysteries The Rosary begins 20 minutes before Mass. We need volunteers to lead.

Parish Quiz Thanks to everyone who came to the Parish Quiz evening in Knypersley on 19th September. The evening was a great success and we made £260 for parish funds.

Parish Social Committee We had an open meeting of our new Parish Social Committee two weeks ago. Only a few parishioners came. It is quite disappointing that not many came to the meeting. However, the discussion was lively and with lots of new ideas of ways to engage parishioners socially, and to help with fund-raising. And so we will have another meeting, and it would be great to see lots of people who want to help with ideas and with help at our future parish events. The meeting will be at St Patrick's church on Monday 20th October at 7pm.

Sacramental Preparation Do you have children who need to be prepared for First Confession (at least Y3) or First Confession and Holy Communion (at least Y4), or both? Whether they are in one of our three Catholic schools or not in a Catholic school, there will be a meeting for parents and children at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 22nd October immediately following the 6pm Mass

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at English Martyrs' on Monday 13th October at 7pm. There will be a talk given by Sue Millard from Biddulph Methodist church about their trips to the refugee camps at Calais, and the work they do there. All ladies welcome.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 25th October, 9am to 10.30am at the presbytery.

Monthly Care Home Service The monthly service at Lawton Rise will begin again on Wednesday 15th October at 11am. Once again we invite parishioners to come and take part. Please arrive in good time.

PLW Prayer Circle We have a new prayer circle for all those who have participated in a Prayer & Life Workshop. It is an hour similar to one of the workshops, with prayers, sharing, Gospel and practising one of the prayer methods used in the workshops. The next meeting is on Tuesday 28th October at 7pm in the meeting room at St Joseph's.

Church Painting volunteers It's nearly 10 years since English Martyrs' church was last decorated, and the finance committee have decided to redo some of the decoration. The new Stations of the Cross and the perennial problem of damp in the concrete supports makes it desirable to do. We will be getting professional contractors to do the main body of the church, excluding the sanctuary and Lady chapel. This work will begin on 10th November, and will take two weeks. That leaves the remaining areas (meeting room, narthex, porch, toilets, sacristy...) which we can do ourselves. We will be doing these areas first, and we are looking for a working party during the week of the **13th to 17th October**. Please see Eugene Menzies at church to volunteer. This means that English Martyrs' church will be out of use during that week and also on the weekdays of 10th to 14th and 17th to 21st November. The Sundays will be unaffected.

Newman Catholic Collegiate Mass You may or may not be aware that the Collegiate (Multi-Academy Trust) which includes St Margaret Ward and its feeder primaries is being absorbed into the new Catholic Multi-Academy Trust called the St Gabriel the Archangel CMAT. This means the Newman Catholic Collegiate comes to an end after 12 years overseeing our schools. And so there will be a thanksgiving Mass on Wednesday 15th October at 6.30pm at St Joseph's church. Everyone in-

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Space meets on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon at St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club building). We begin again this Tuesday 9th September.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. This month there is no normal meeting but the group are holding a Fayre at the Town Hall on Tuesday 30th September from 1.30 to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entrance £3.

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space will be starting again this autumn. It will be on Wednesdays, starting 1st October from 11am to 2pm in the meeting room at church. Light refreshments and lunches available. Make it a date!

involved with our schools over the years and all parishioners are welcome to come to this Mass.

Our Lady & Vatican II Fr Julian will be giving a talk about the place of Mary in the Second Vatican Council's document *Lumen Genrium* in the Catherine Room at Our Lady & St Peter's church, Stoke, on Friday 10th October at 7pm. The event is organised by the Area Pastoral Council and everyone is welcome!



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 for the parish. 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

Clayton Parish Mission The parish of Our Lady & St Werburgh are having a Parish Mission, given by the Sion community, from Friday 17th to Sunday 19th October. You are invited to come and take part in the Mission. The programme on Saturday may be particularly of interest to all: 9.30am Morning Prayer, followed by a talk and a prayer workshop; 12.15pm Mass followed by a bring & share lunch; 2pm Talk and service of reconciliation and healing.

Marriage support Does your relationship need some TLC? Or do you need help with deeper issues. Retrouvaille can help. The next programme begins on 17th October. For more information on what it entails, go to www.retrouvaille.org.uk or phone 07887 296983

Cursillo in Christianity There will also be a full Cursillo weekend on 13th to 16th November at Shallowford House, Staffs. If you are interested please email nation-al@cursillouk.org or call 07947 271037 For more information about Cursillo go to cursillouk.org

Update of Assisted Dying Bill For those who keep up with the news, you will know that the Bill (called the Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill) which allows assisted suicide passed the House of Commons and is now in the House of Lords. The good news is that the larger number of speakers in the debates in the House of Lords have been against the Bill. It is more difficult to get in touch with members of the House of Lords, as they do not have constituencies. However, please do try to contact any that you know of in order to voice opposition to the Bill. The Archdiocesan website has a summary of the message of Archbishop Sherrington of Liverpool which outlines the objections. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/termill25>

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Arthur Alexander Green who will be baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 12th October.



Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three months leading up to Harvest, the food bank gratefully received 18 tonnes in donations but distributed 27 tonnes in emergency supplies to support local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

Tinned soup
Tinned dessert
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fish
Tinned meat
UHT milk
Pasta sauces
Mash
Teabags 40s
Biscuits

Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank
stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1159820



Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open at the normal times of opening (see front page) with the exception of Bank Holidays. It is recommended to phone before coming in person.

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. There will be an Open House on Saturday 27th September, but not on 4th or 11th October. There will be Open House then on 18th and 25th October.

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 (Fr Matthew). 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.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 5th October

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

St Patrick's: Alice & George Adam

English Martyrs: Jean Green

Week beginning 12th October

St Joseph's: John Martin

St Patrick's: Heidi Elizabeth Sampey & family

You can dedicate a sanctuary lamp for a week for a minimum donation of £7